

MARVEL

SOULE • MUSABEKOV • ROSENBERG

41

DARK DROIDS STAR WARS

BATTLE ON
EPIKONIA!



LANDO LOST

After Lobot's neural implants began to fail him, Lando took his unwell friend to Jabba the Hutt's palace, where the Talky droid who once helped them resides. There, the duo was accosted by several scourged droids, which took over Lobot's mind.

The evil entity known as the Scourge has been gathering its horde of one-minded droids on the planet Epikonia, where it's conducting experiments to find a way to spread its consciousness to organic beings.

Now Lando and a small team of rebels must fight to save their friend. . . .

***NOTE: This issue takes place during the events of Dark Droids #5 and contains spoilers for that issue, on sale 12/27!**

CHARLES SOULE
Writer

MADIBEK MUSABEKOV
Artist

RACHELLE ROSENBERG
Color Artist

VC's CLAYTON COWLES
Letterer

STEPHEN SEGOVIA & RAIN BEREDO
Cover Artists

JOHN TYLER CHRISTOPHER (Action Figure); LEE GARBETT & LAURA MARTIN; ROD REIS
Variant Cover Artists

MIKEY J. BASSO
Assistant Editor

DANNY KHAZEM
Associate Editor

MARK PANICCIA
Editor

C.B. CEBULSKI
Editor in Chief

For Lucasfilm:

Senior Editor ROBERT SIMPSON

Associate Editor GRACE ORRISS

Creative Director MICHAEL SIGLAIN

Art Director TROY ALDERS

Lucasfilm Story Group MATT MARTIN, PABLO HIDALGO & EMILY SHKOUKANI

Creative Art Manager PHIL SZOSTAK



STAR WARS and related text and illustrations are trademarks and/or copyrights, in the United States and other countries, of Lucasfilm Ltd. and/or its affiliates. © & TM Lucasfilm Ltd. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons, and/or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. Marvel and its logos are TM Marvel Characters, Inc. WWW.MARVEL.COM

Epikonia.

TAKE THESE
THINGS DOWN!
LOBOT'S NOT FAR--
WE CAN SAVE
HIM!

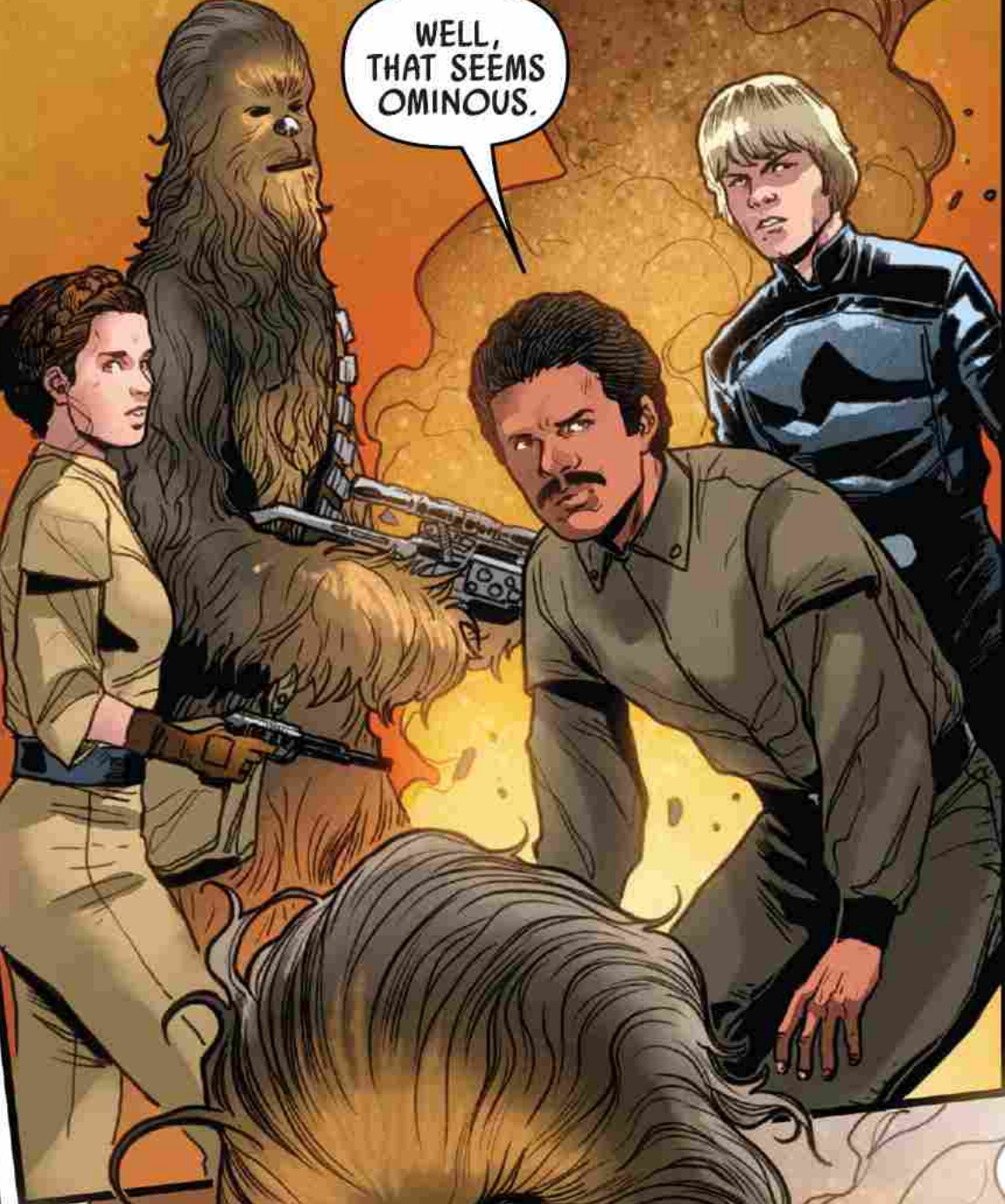
BUT IF
LOBOT'S BEEN
TAKEN OVER JUST LIKE
THESE DROIDS...EVEN IF
WE FIND HIM, LANDO...
WHAT ARE WE
SUPPOSED
TO DO?



ZZX

WE
CAN SAVE
HIM.

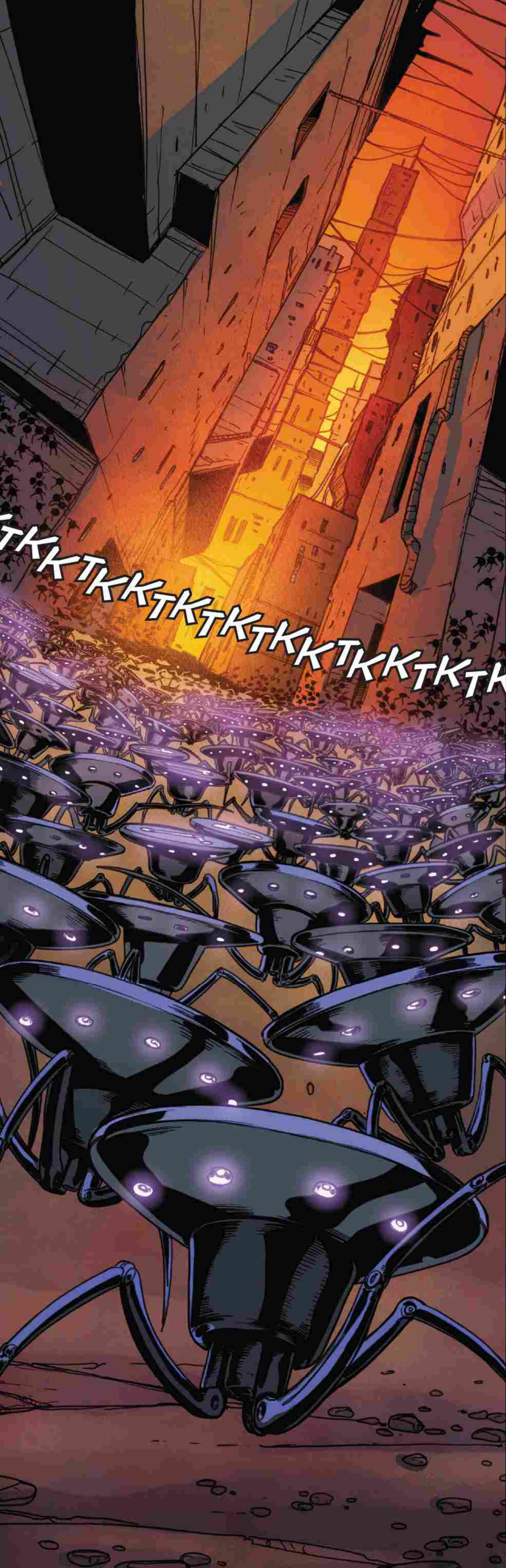




KTKTKTKTK

Nnh?

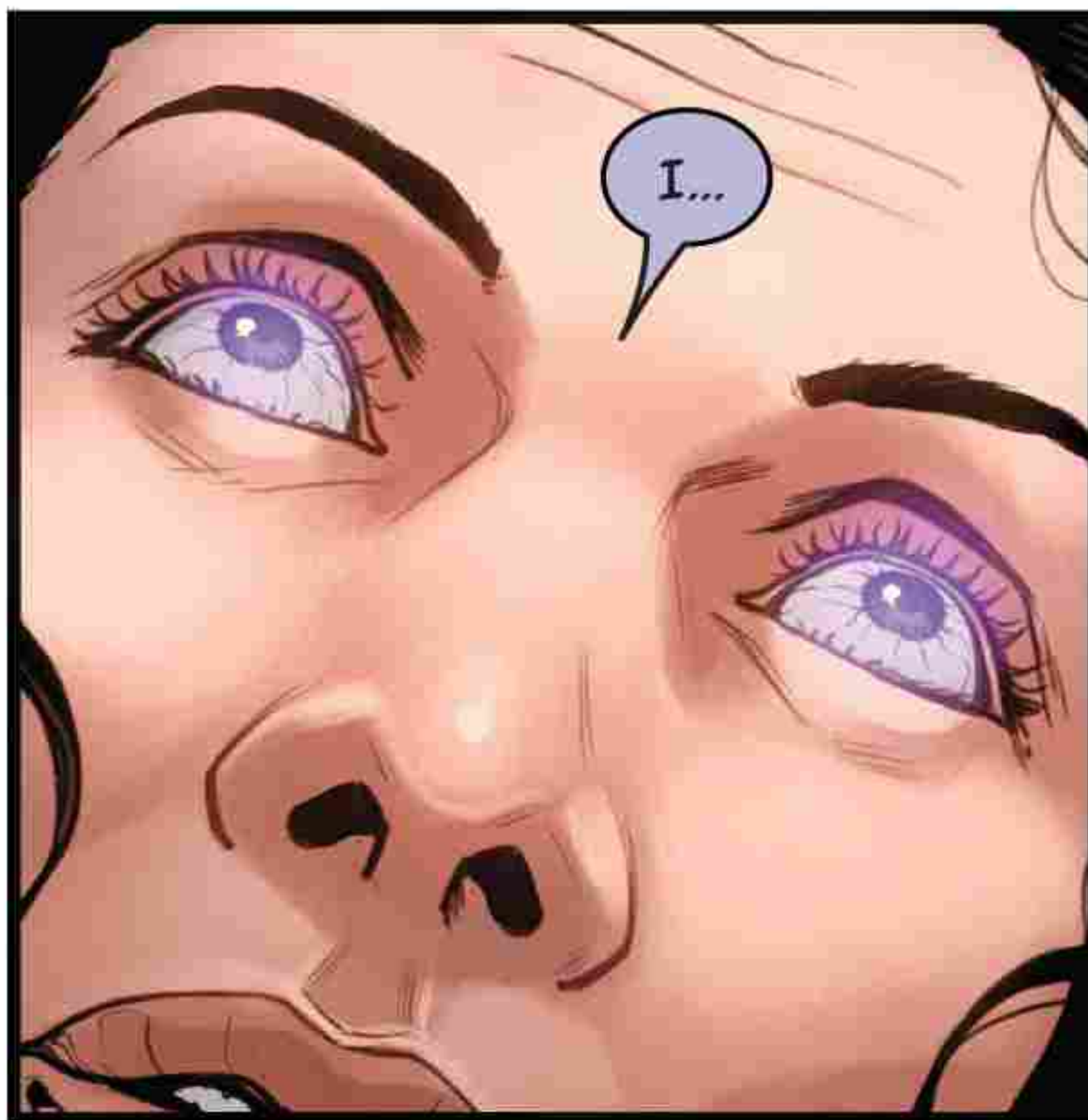
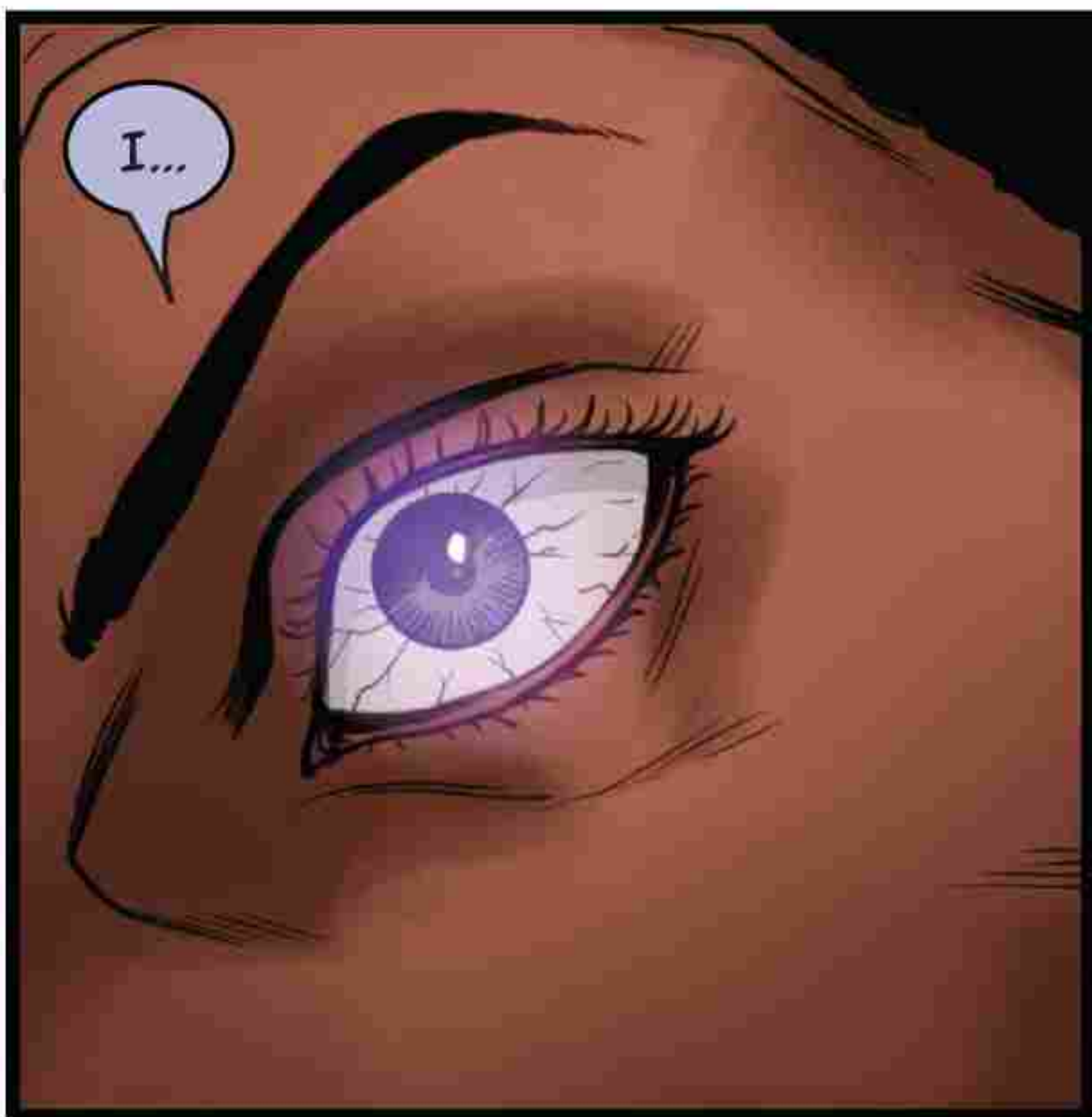
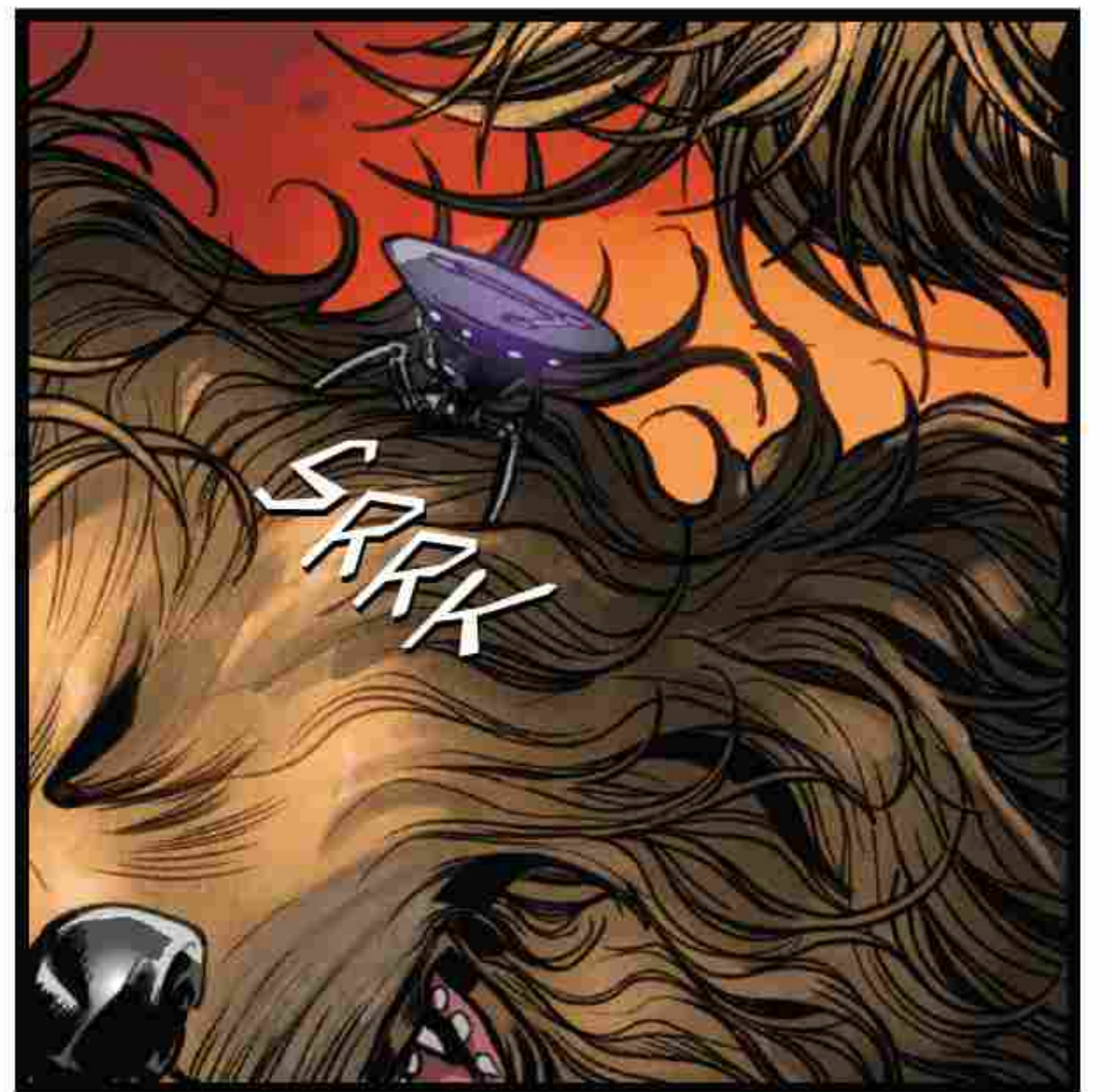
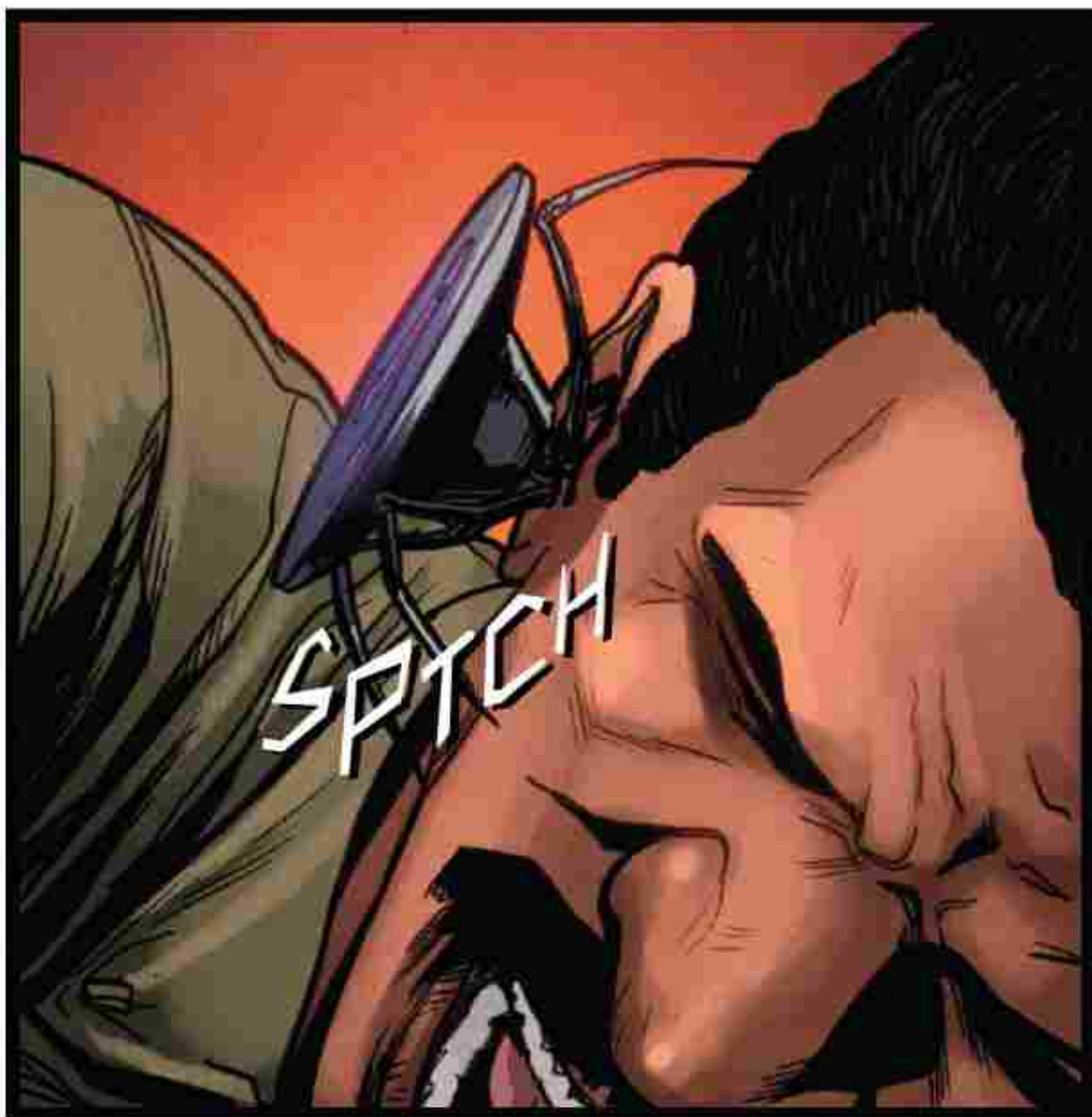
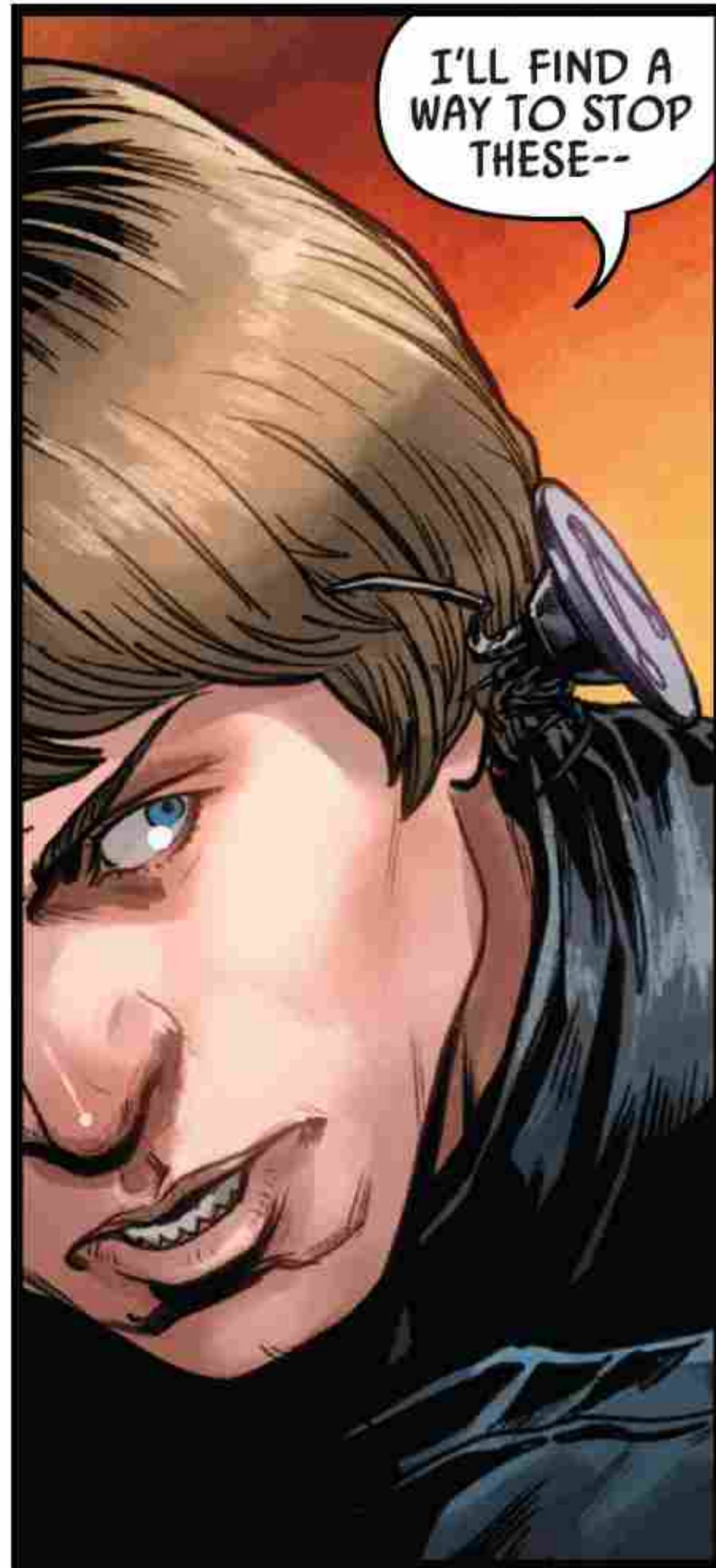
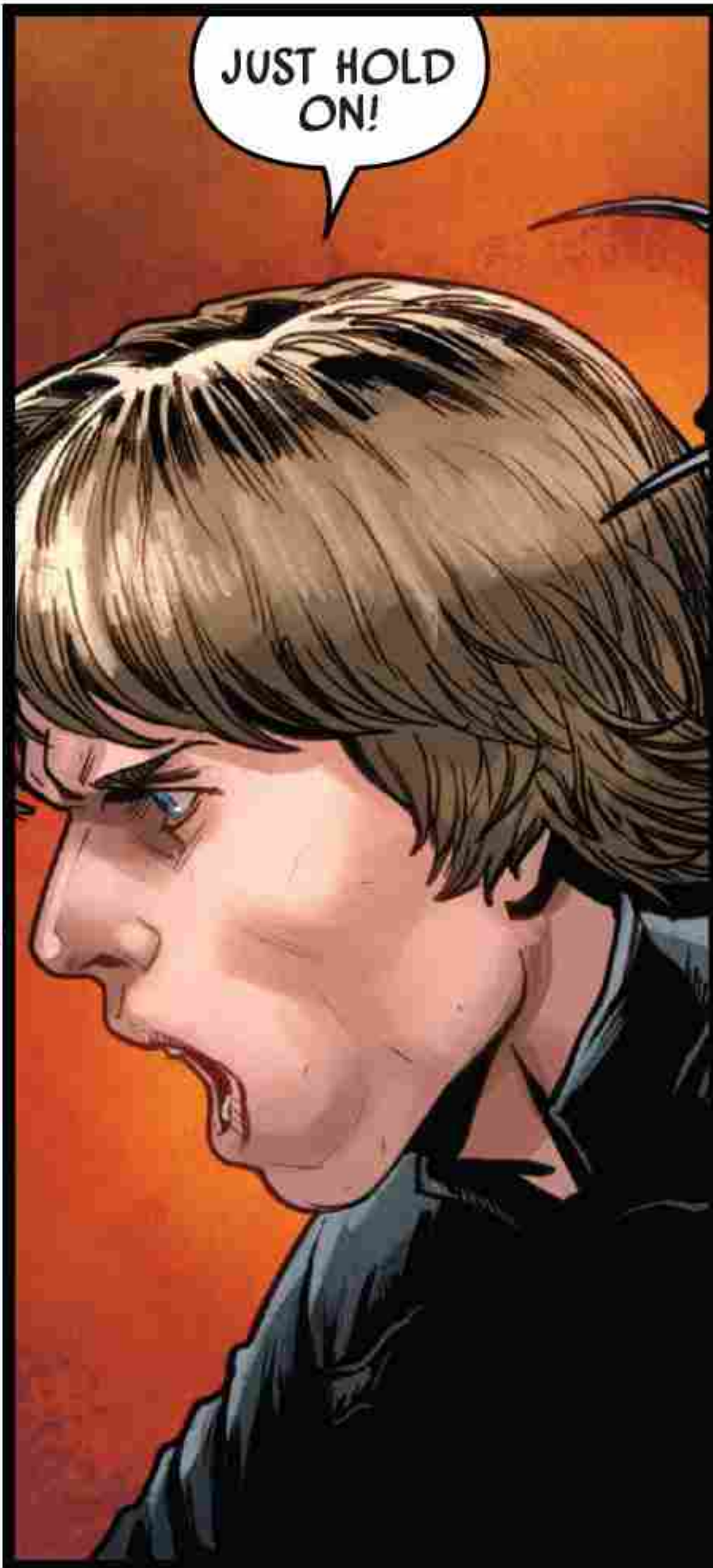






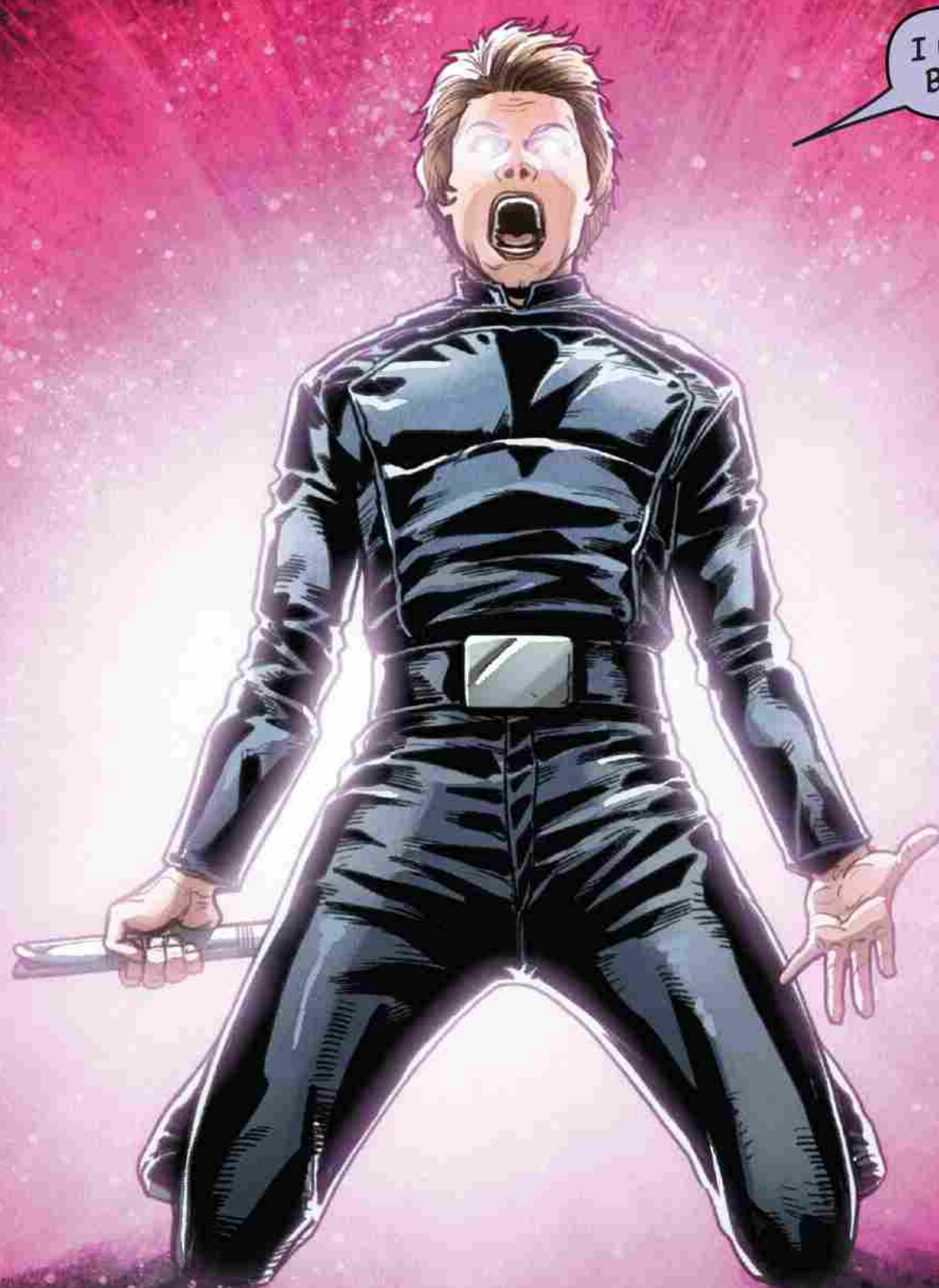
HROOARGH!





Here.

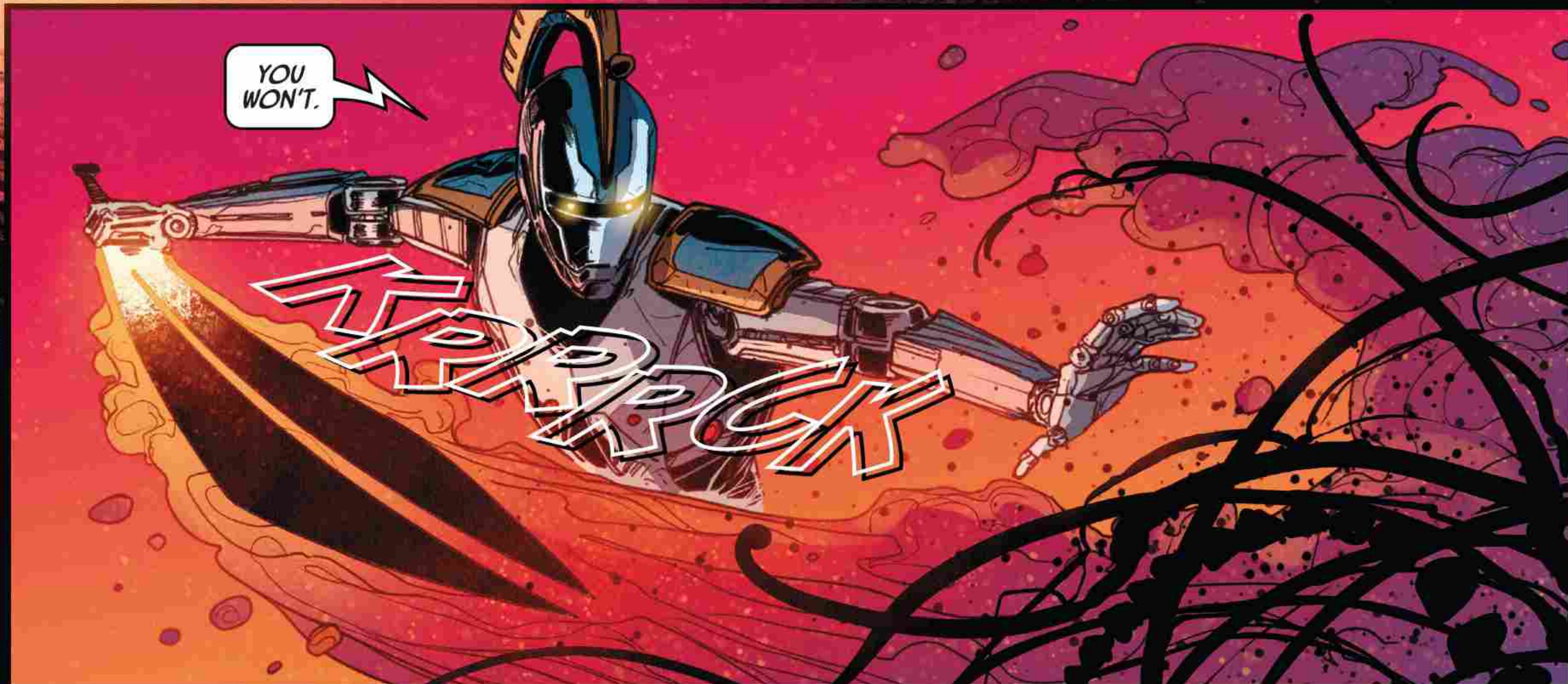
I WILL
BE...

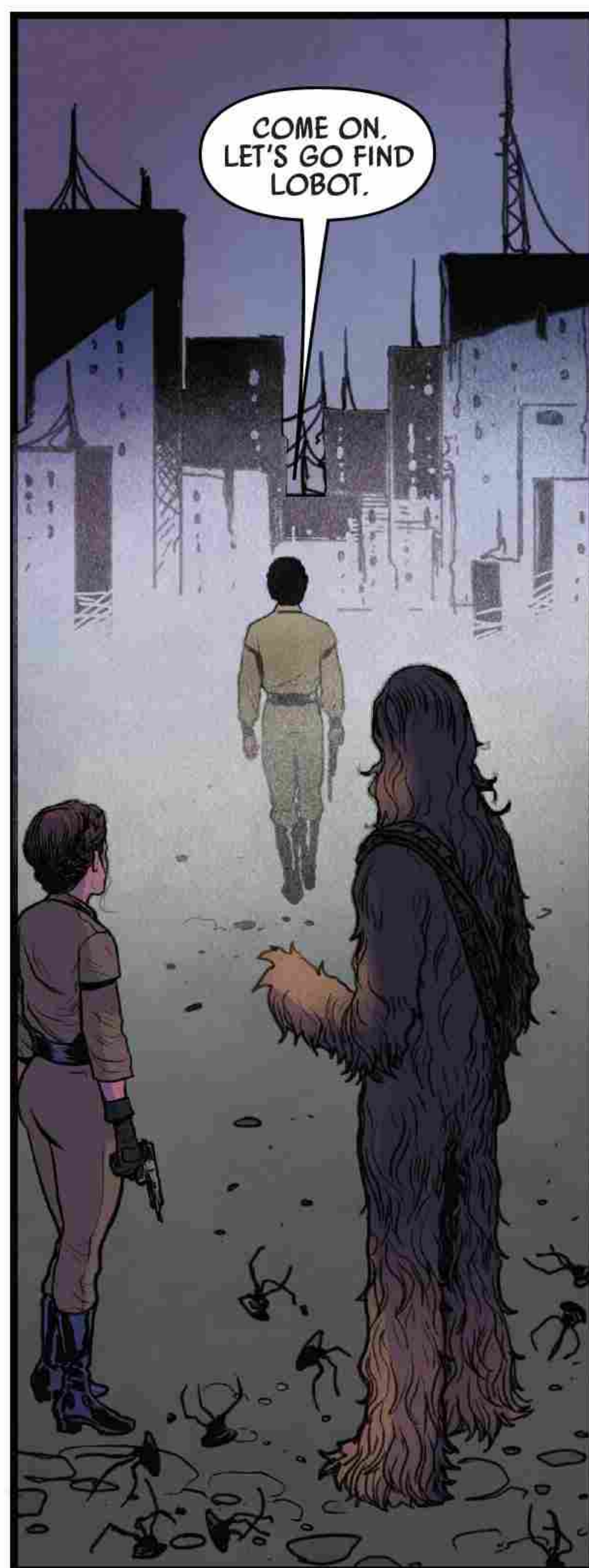
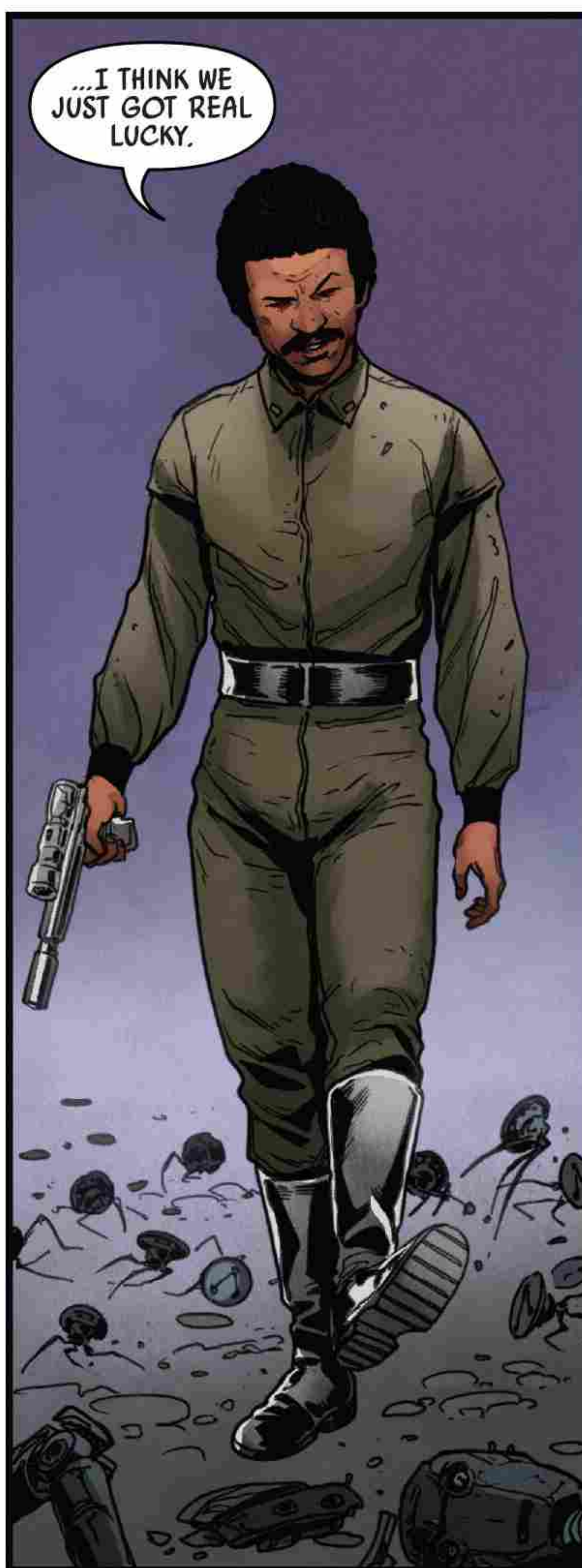


There.

...THE NEW
FORCE.







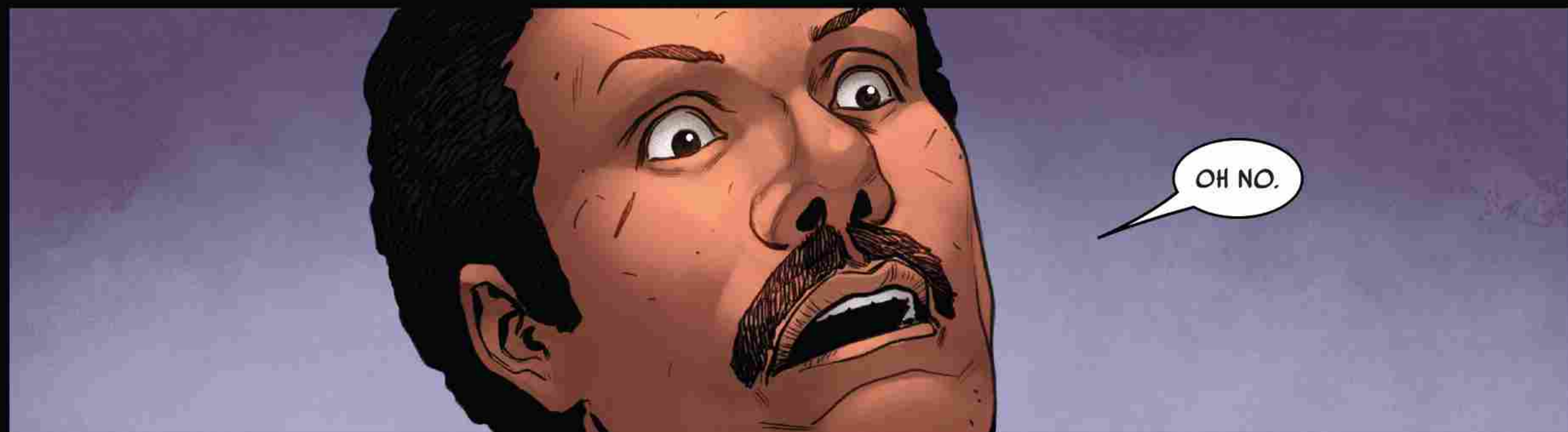


BY THE
LIGHT. ALL
THESE PEOPLE.
WHAT IS
THIS?

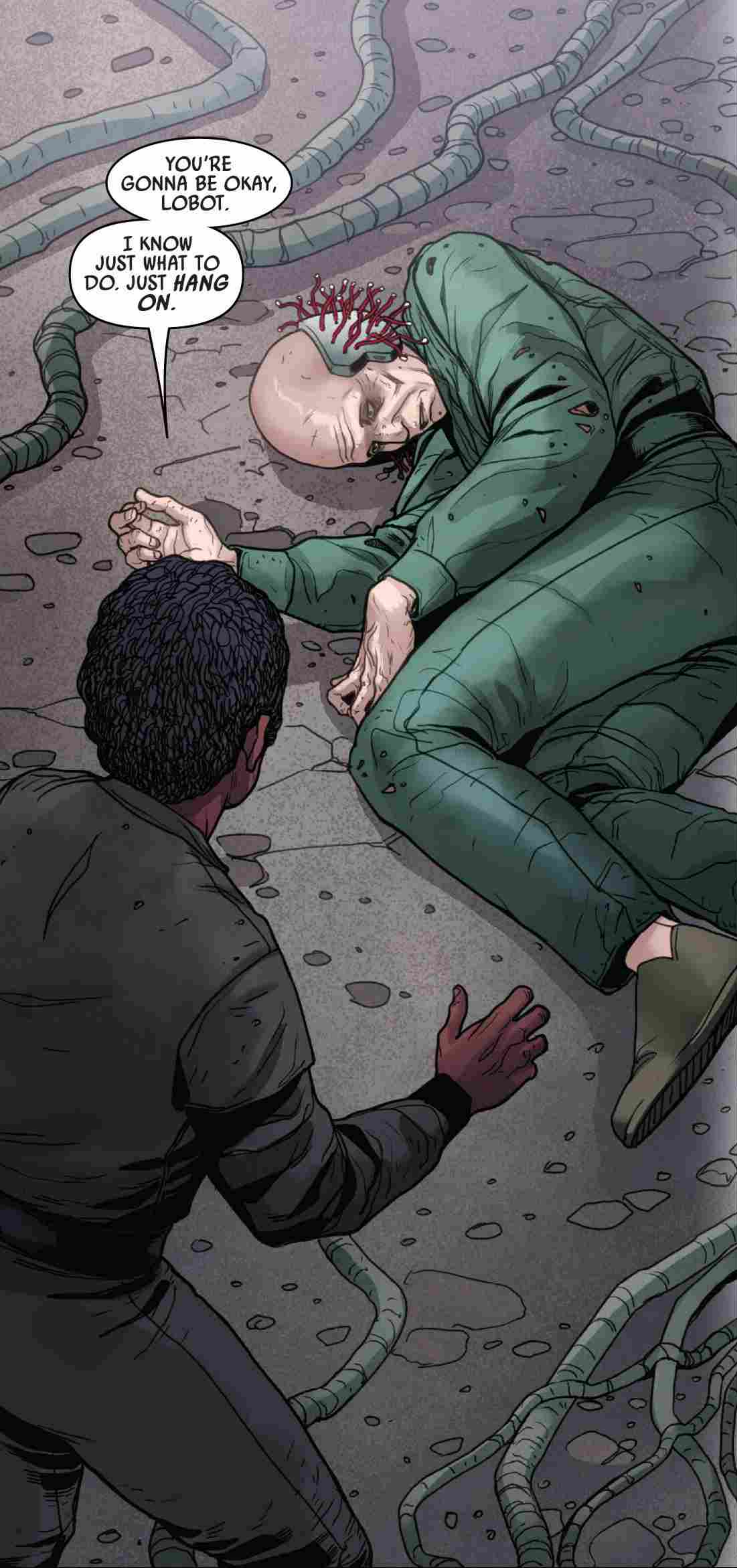
NOT OUR
PROBLEM,
LEIA.



WHERE ARE YOU, BUDDY?
COME ON...COME
ON...



OH NO.



YOU'RE GONNA BE OKAY, LOBOT.

I KNOW JUST WHAT TO DO. JUST HANG ON.



OH, WOW... LOBOT... IS HE SICK?

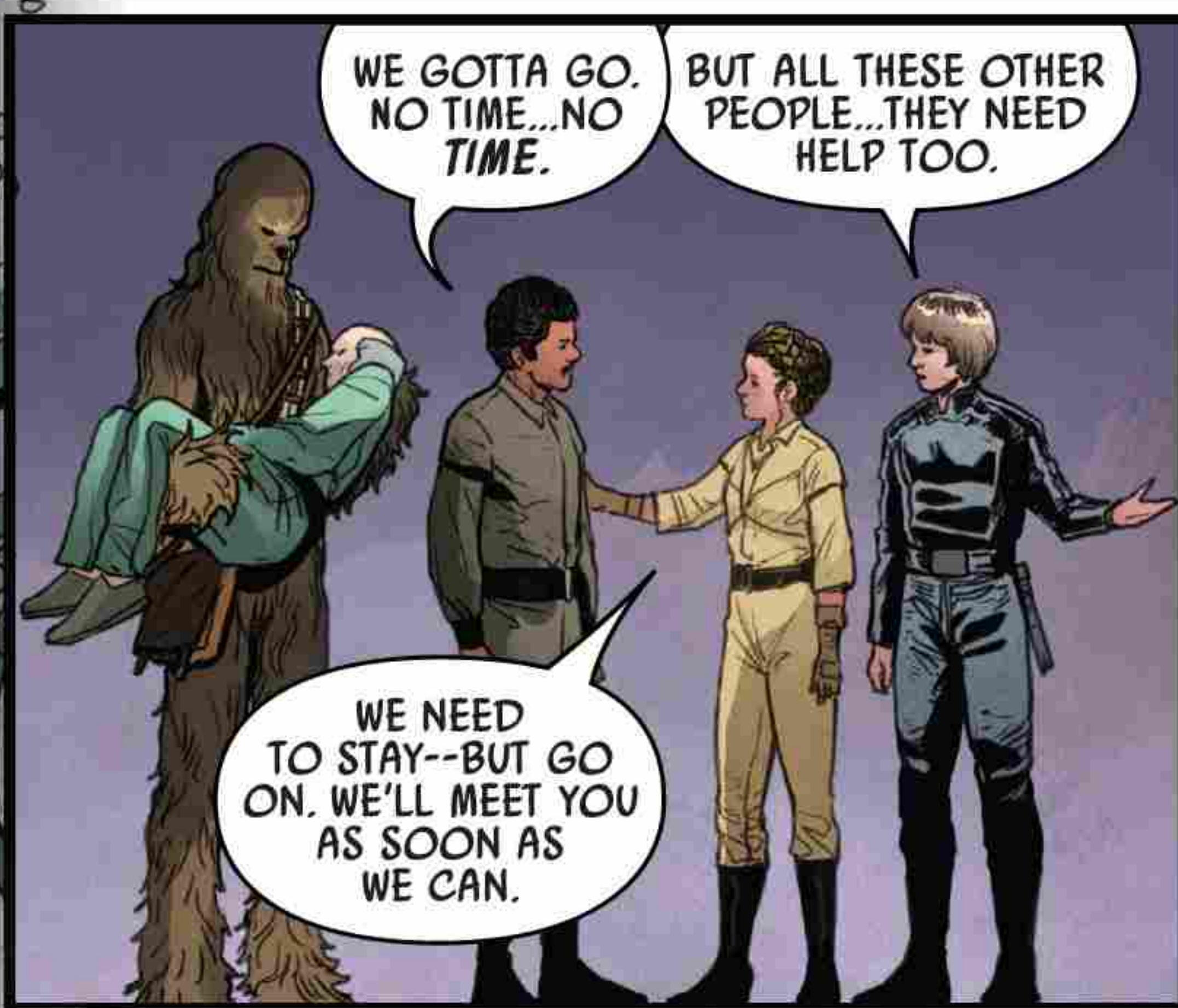
YES, LUKE. IT'S HIS IMPLANTS.

I'VE GOT SOMETHING ON THE FALCON TO FIX HIM UP, BUT WE HAVE TO GET HIM THERE.



CHEWIE, HELP ME. I CAN'T CARRY HIM ALL THAT WAY.

Hroo.



WE GOTTA GO. NO TIME...NO TIME.

BUT ALL THESE OTHER PEOPLE...THEY NEED HELP TOO.

WE NEED TO STAY--BUT GO ON. WE'LL MEET YOU AS SOON AS WE CAN.



SUIT YOURSELVES. SEE YOU WHEN WE SEE YOU.

The Millennium Falcon.

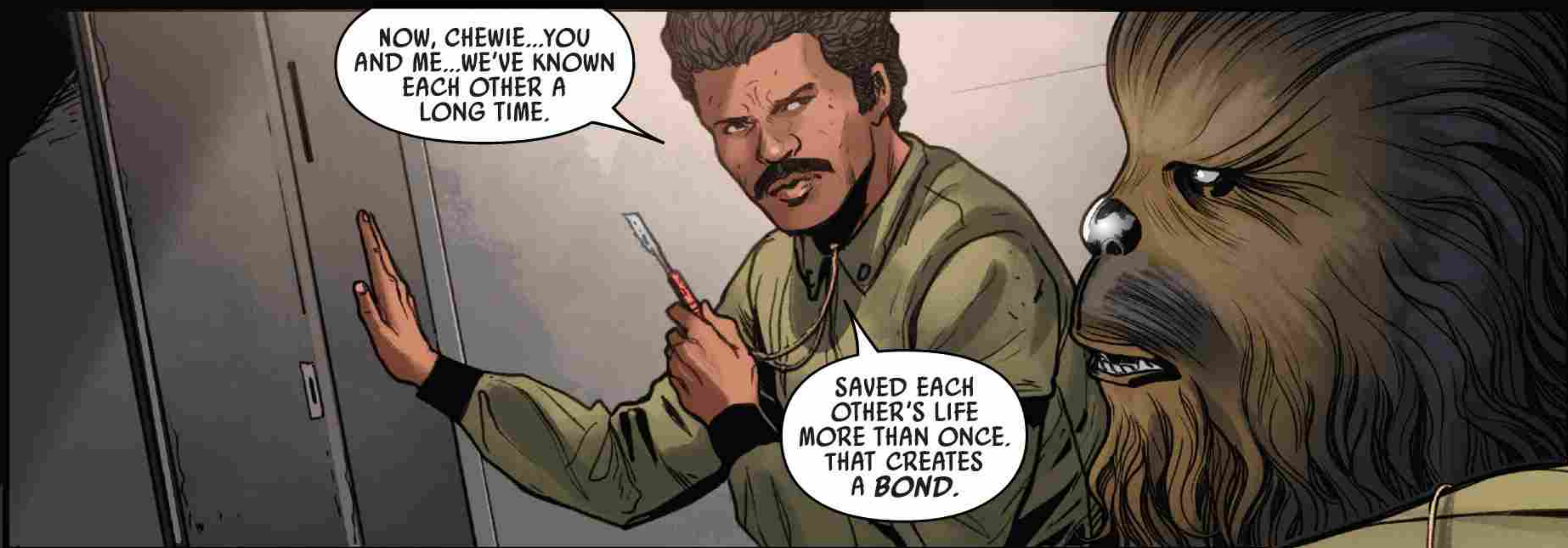


EASY,
CHEWBACCA...



...SET HIM
DOWN NICE
AND EASY.

HROOAH!



NOW, CHEWIE...YOU
AND ME...WE'VE KNOWN
EACH OTHER A
LONG TIME.

SAVED EACH
OTHER'S LIFE
MORE THAN ONCE.
THAT CREATES
A **BOND**.



YOU'RE ABOUT
TO SEE SOMETHING
YOU'RE NOT GONNA
LIKE.

MIGHT NOT
MAKE MUCH SENSE.
OR MAYBE IT'LL MAKE
PERFECT SENSE.
I DUNNO.

YOU'LL BE
ABLE TO BURN ME TO
THE GROUND, BLOW UP MY
WHOLE THING. YOU WANNA DO
THAT, I WON'T STOP YOU. JUST...
WAIT UNTIL I'VE DONE WHAT
I NEED TO DO.



FOR LOBOT.



Whoooo.

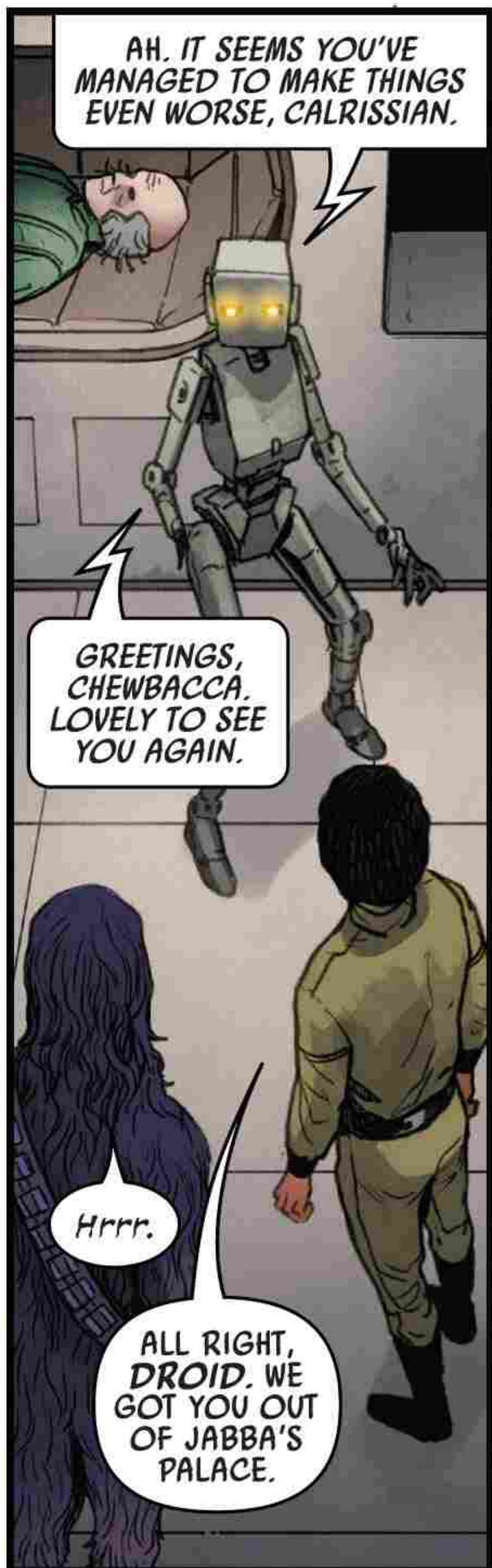


I KNOW,
CHEWBACCA.
I KNOW.



REACTIVATION
BOOT SEQUENCE
INITIATED.

KLK



AH. IT SEEMS YOU'VE MANAGED TO MAKE THINGS EVEN WORSE, CALRISSIAN.

GREETINGS, CHEWBACCA. LOVELY TO SEE YOU AGAIN.

Hrrr.

ALL RIGHT, DROID. WE GOT YOU OUT OF JABBA'S PALACE.



HEAL LOBOT. FULLY.



IF I DO THAT, WHAT'S TO KEEP YOU FROM DESTROYING ME?



NOTHING. BUT LET ME TELL YOU WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF YOU DON'T HEAL MY FRIEND.

I WAS VERY CLOSE TO A DROID ONCE. SHE TOLD ME PLENTY ABOUT HOW YOU THINGS WORK.

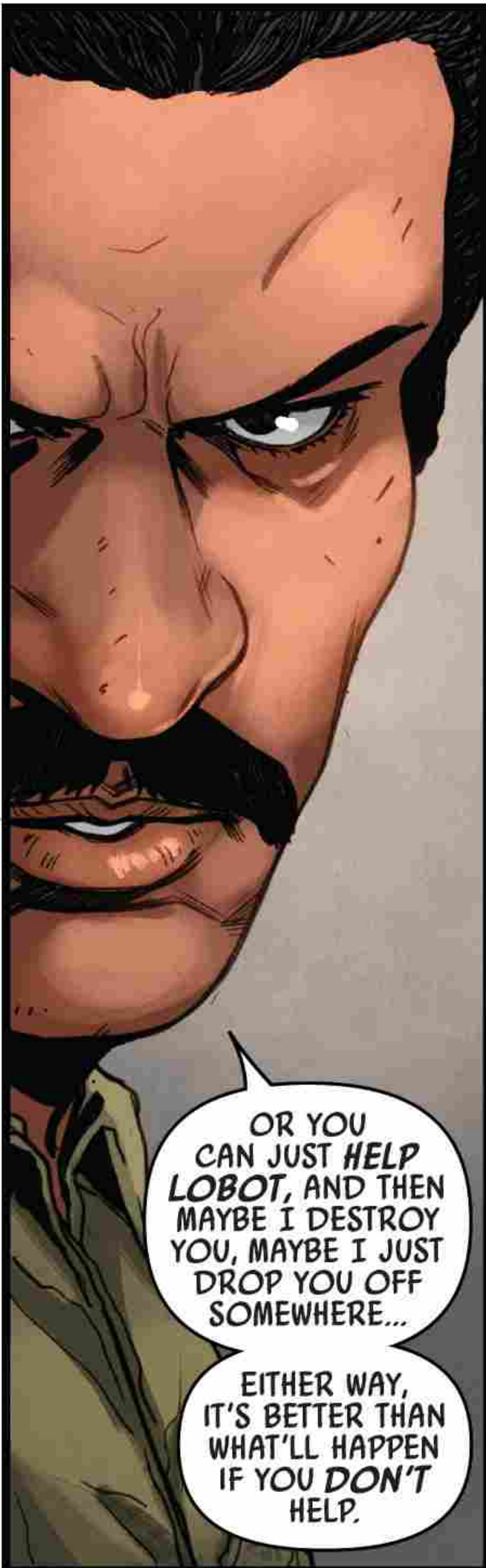
YOU'RE PROGRAMMED TO AVOID **DAMAGE**, SO YOU'VE GOT SENSORS TO TELL YOU WHEN IT'S HAPPENING. FEELS LIKE WHAT WE ORGANICS CALL PAIN.



IF YOU DON'T HELP LOBOT, I'LL TAKE OUT YOUR CORE AND WIRE IT INTO A SIMULATOR THAT'LL MAKE EVERY MOMENT OF YOUR EXISTENCE AGONY.

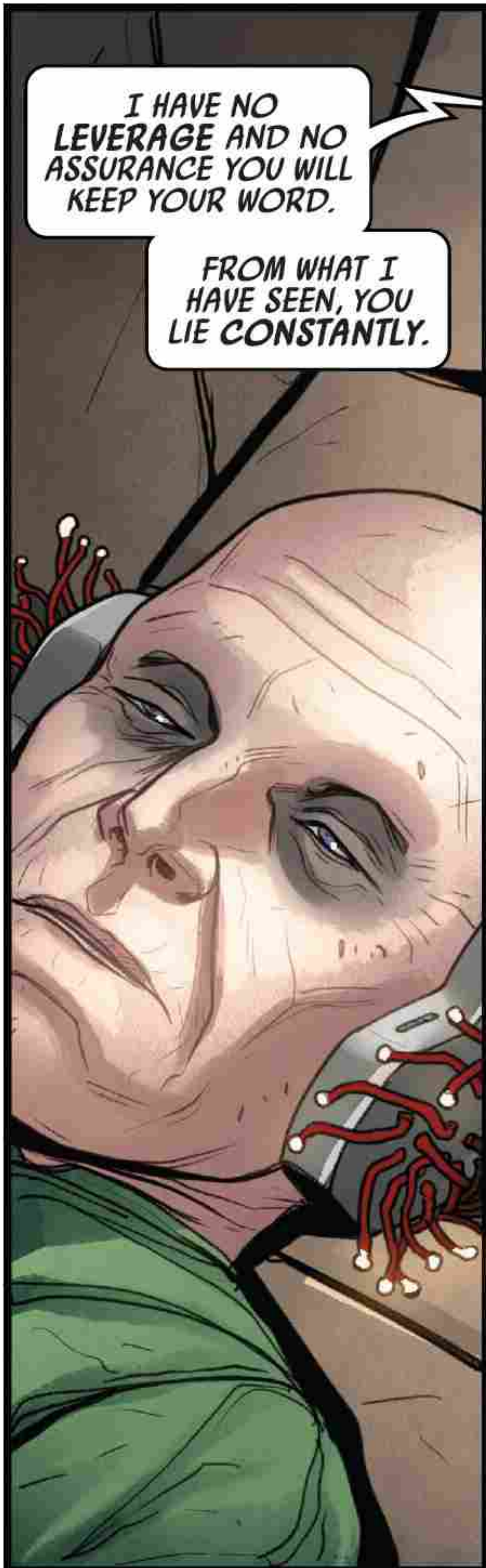
DON'T THINK I CAN'T EITHER.

THERE'S A DROID MECHANIC ON KIJIMI WHO OWES ME A FAVOR.



OR YOU CAN JUST HELP LOBOT, AND THEN MAYBE I DESTROY YOU, MAYBE I JUST DROP YOU OFF SOMEWHERE...

EITHER WAY, IT'S BETTER THAN WHAT'LL HAPPEN IF YOU **DON'T** HELP.



I HAVE NO LEVERAGE AND NO ASSURANCE YOU WILL KEEP YOUR WORD.

FROM WHAT I HAVE SEEN, YOU LIE CONSTANTLY.



THIS IS TERRIBLE.

AWW. WHAT A SHAME.



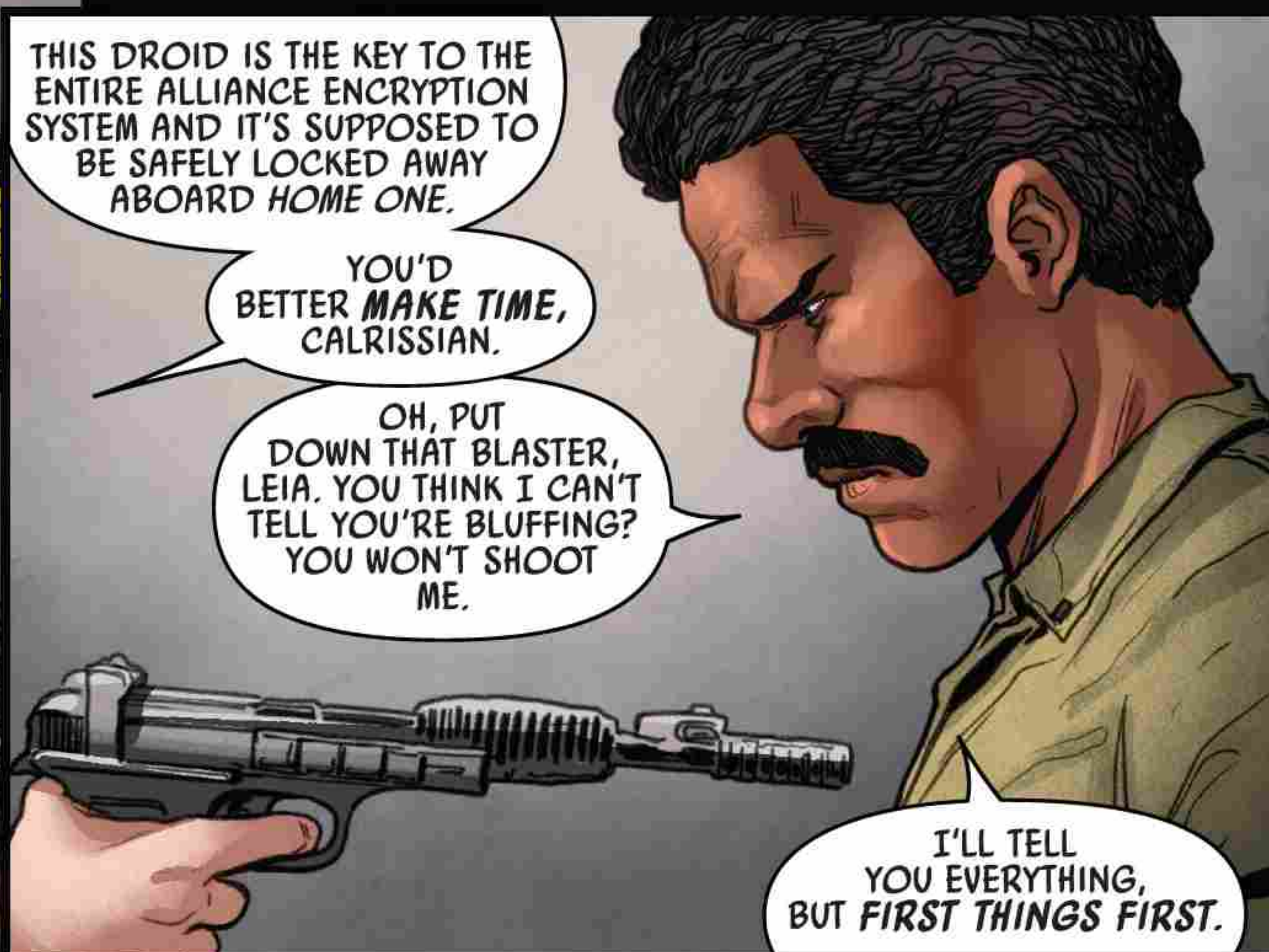
LANDO!

HNH. WHAT
HAPPENED TO
HELPING PEOPLE
BACK IN THE
CITY?



THEY HAD
THINGS IN HAND.
THERE WASN'T MUCH
MORE WE COULD DO, SO
WE CAME BACK TO CHECK
ON LOBOT. **WHAT
IS THIS?**

LOOK, I CAN
EXPLAIN IT ALL,
BUT LOBOT JUST
DOESN'T HAVE
THE TIME.



THIS DROID IS THE KEY TO THE
ENTIRE ALLIANCE ENCRYPTION
SYSTEM AND IT'S SUPPOSED TO
BE SAFELY LOCKED AWAY
ABOARD HOME ONE.

YOU'D
BETTER **MAKE TIME**,
CALRISSIAN.

OH, PUT
DOWN THAT BLASTER,
LEIA. YOU THINK I CAN'T
TELL YOU'RE BLUFFING?
YOU WON'T SHOOT
ME.

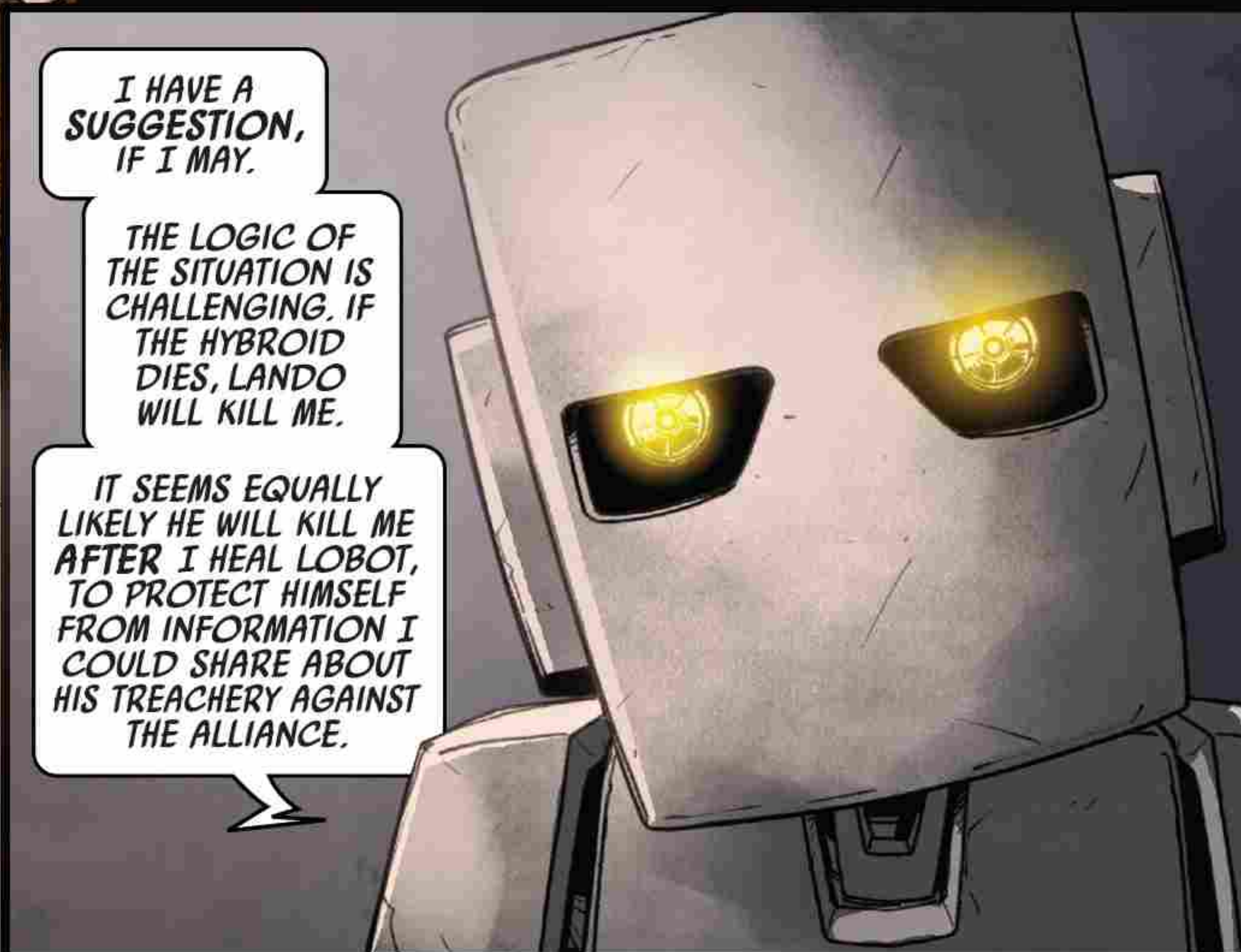
I'LL TELL
YOU EVERYTHING,
BUT **FIRST THINGS FIRST.**



LISTEN UP,
DROID. IF LOBOT
DIES, I DON'T NEED
YOU ANYMORE, AND
I WON'T HAVE TO
HOLD BACK FROM
PUTTING A BLASTER
BOLT THROUGH
YOUR EYE.

AS LEIA
KNOWS, I'M A
**VERY GOOD
SHOT.**

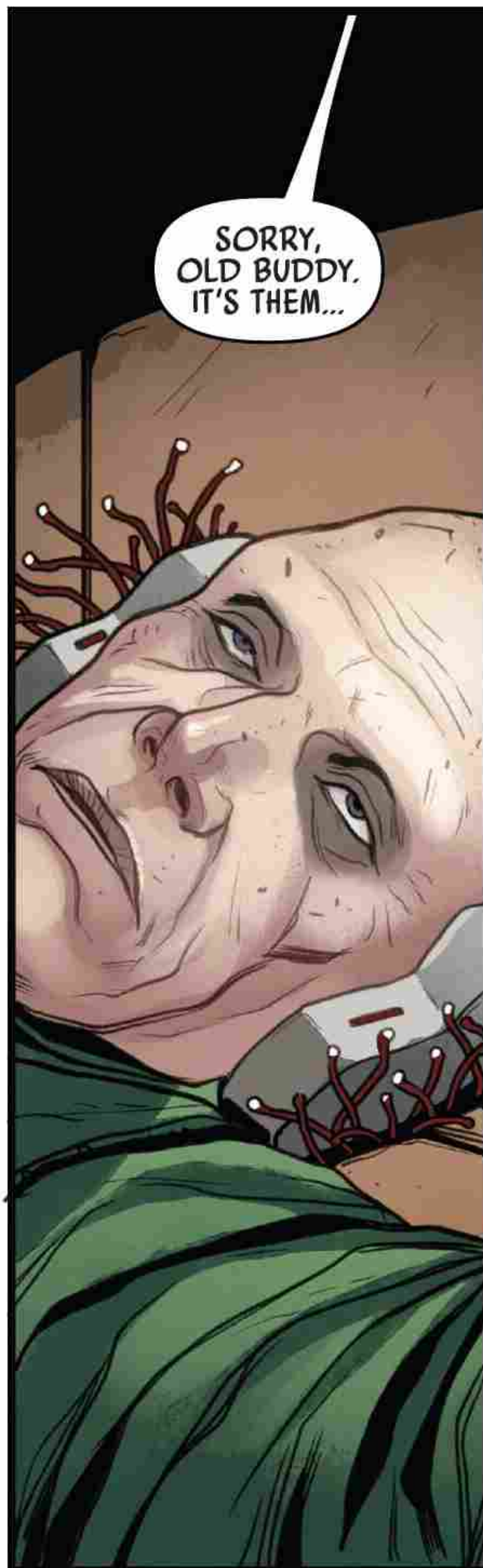
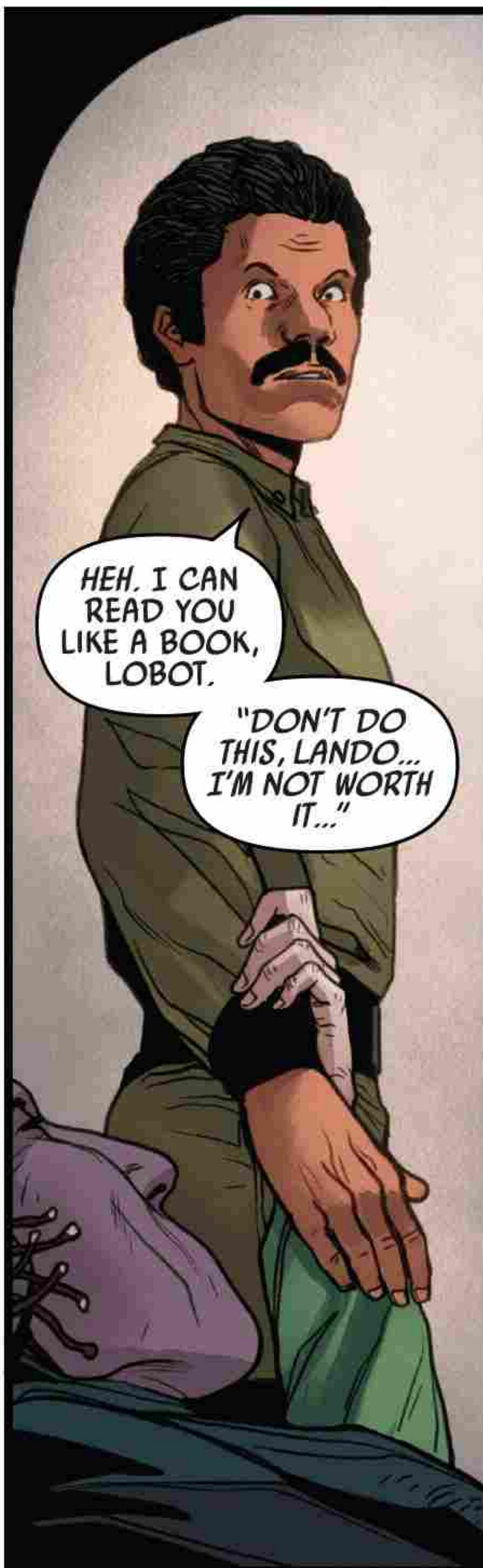
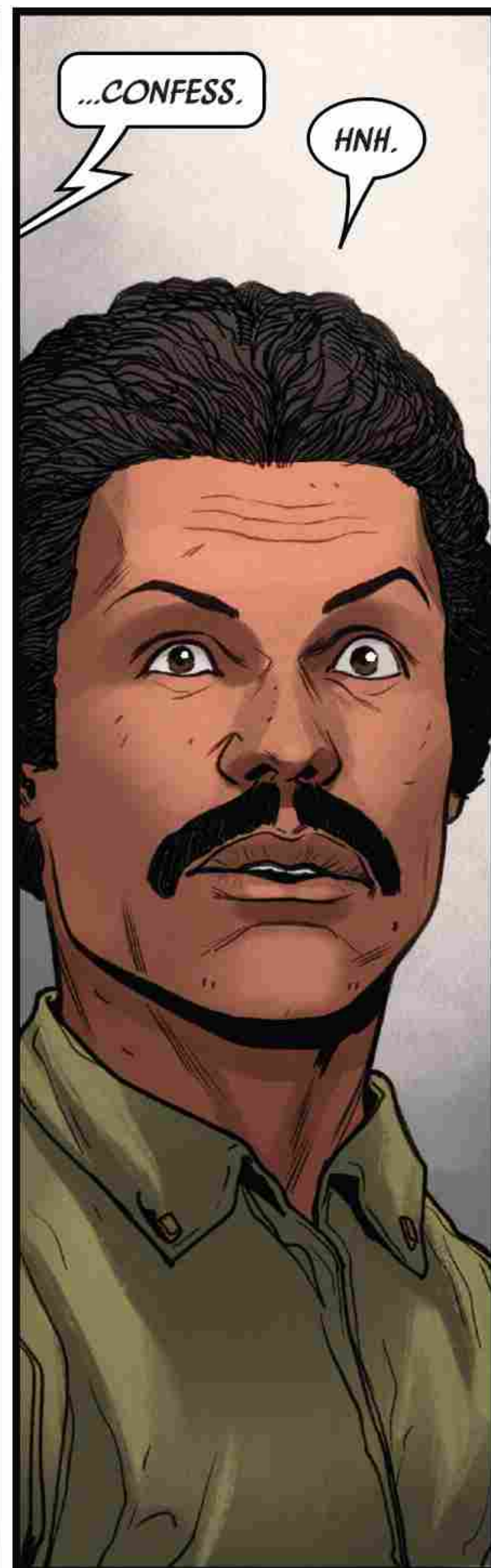
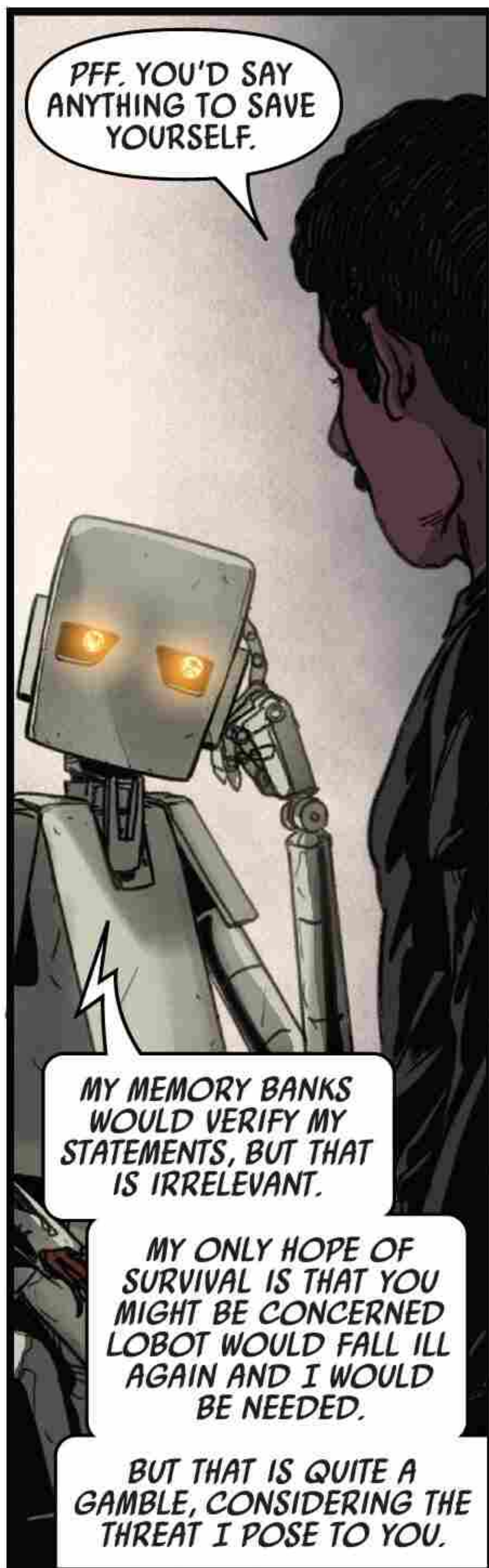
NOW
**GET TO
WORK.**

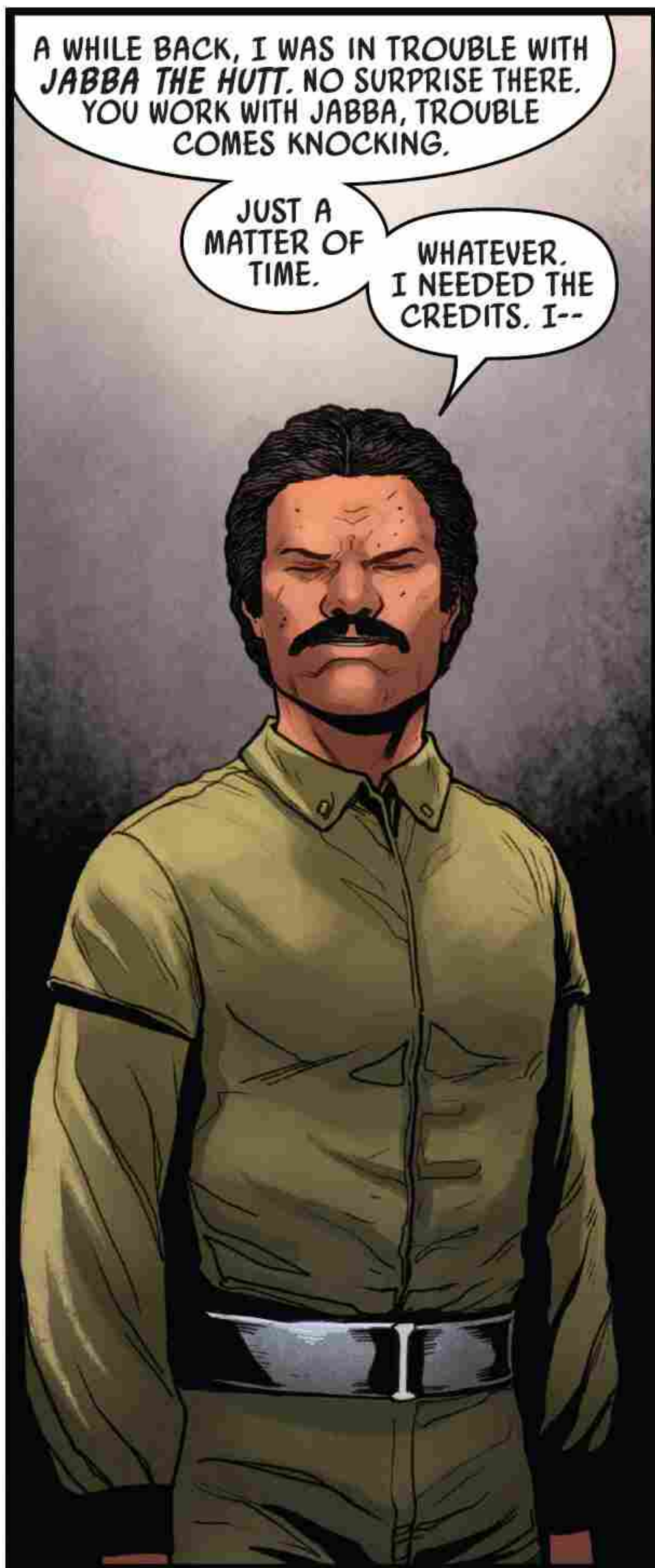


I HAVE A
SUGGESTION,
IF I MAY.

THE LOGIC OF
THE SITUATION IS
CHALLENGING. IF
THE HYBROID
DIES, LANDO
WILL KILL ME.

IT SEEMS EQUALLY
LIKELY HE WILL KILL ME
AFTER I HEAL LOBOT,
TO PROTECT HIMSELF
FROM INFORMATION I
COULD SHARE ABOUT
HIS TREACHERY AGAINST
THE ALLIANCE.

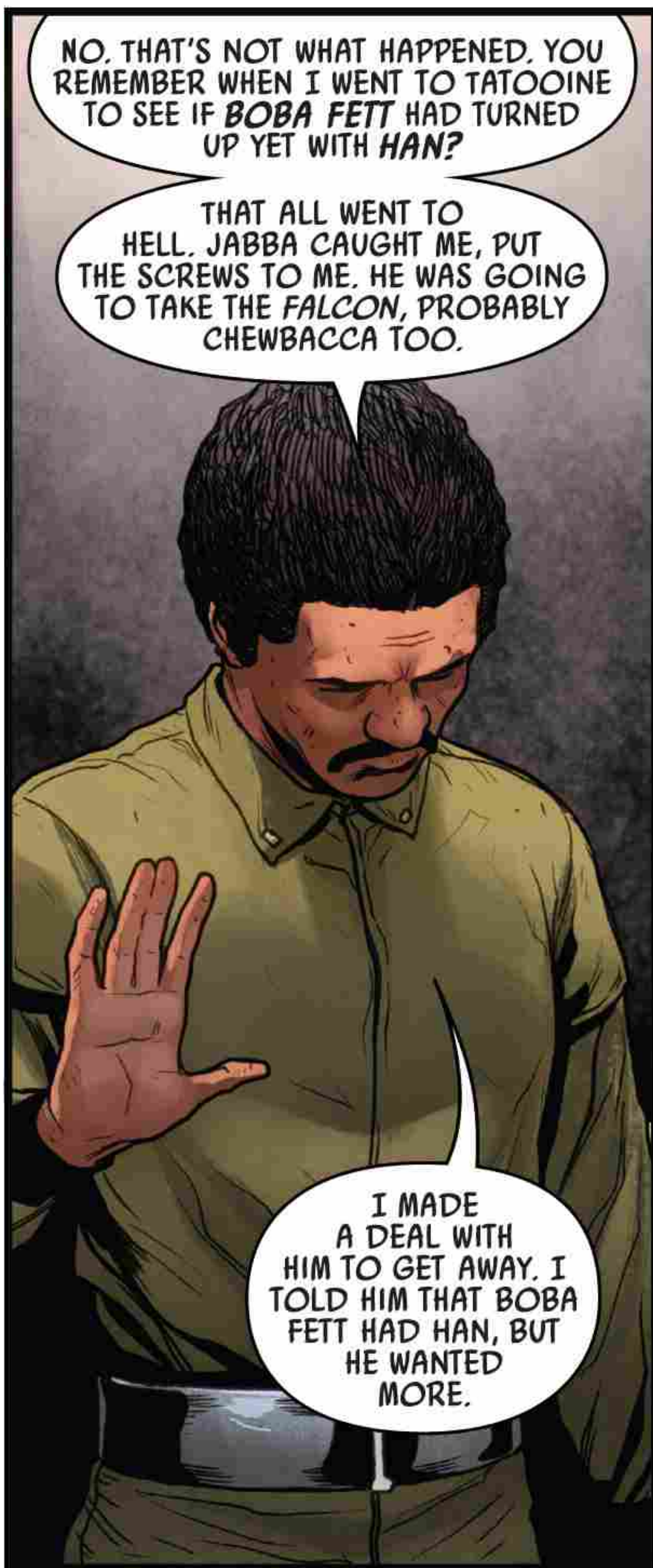




A WHILE BACK, I WAS IN TROUBLE WITH **JABBA THE HUTT**. NO SURPRISE THERE. YOU WORK WITH JABBA, TROUBLE COMES KNOCKING.

JUST A MATTER OF TIME.

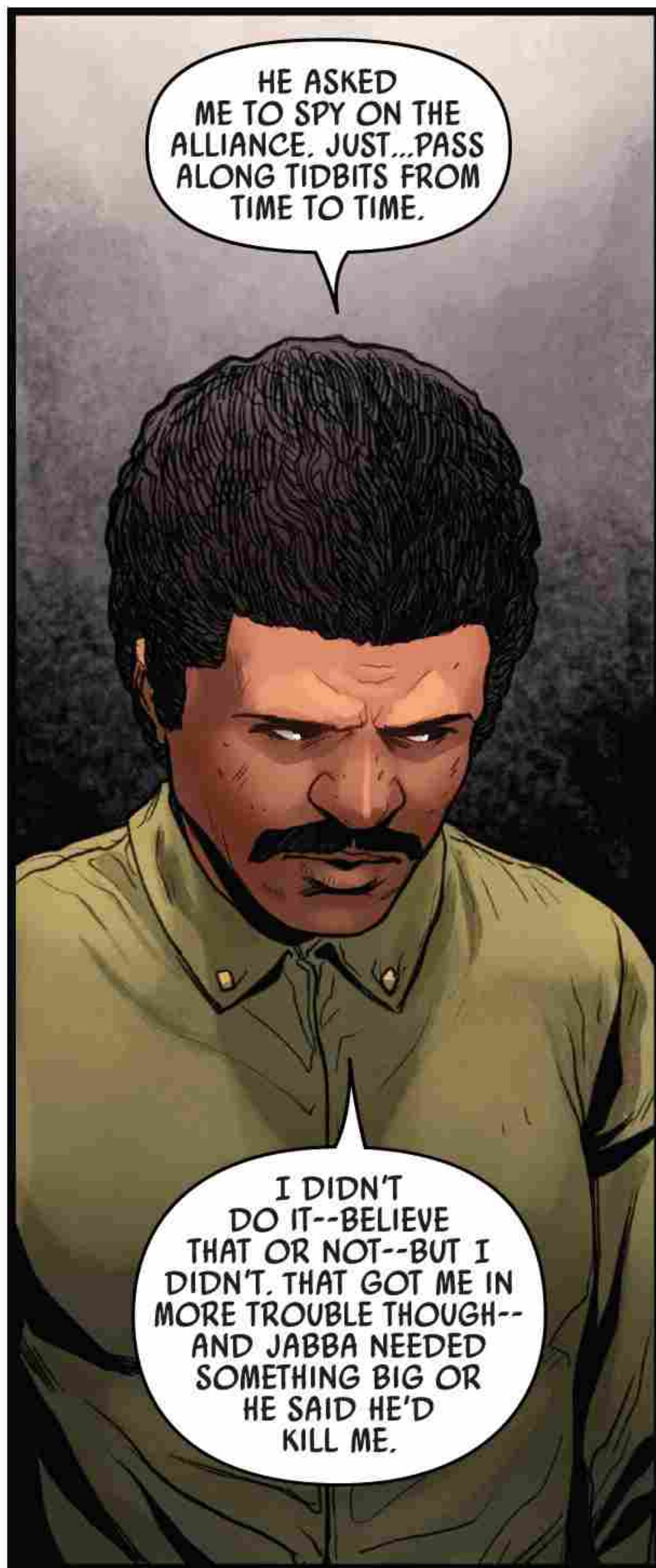
WHATEVER. I NEEDED THE CREDITS. I--



NO. THAT'S NOT WHAT HAPPENED. YOU REMEMBER WHEN I WENT TO TATOOINE TO SEE IF **BOBA FETT** HAD TURNED UP YET WITH **HAN**?

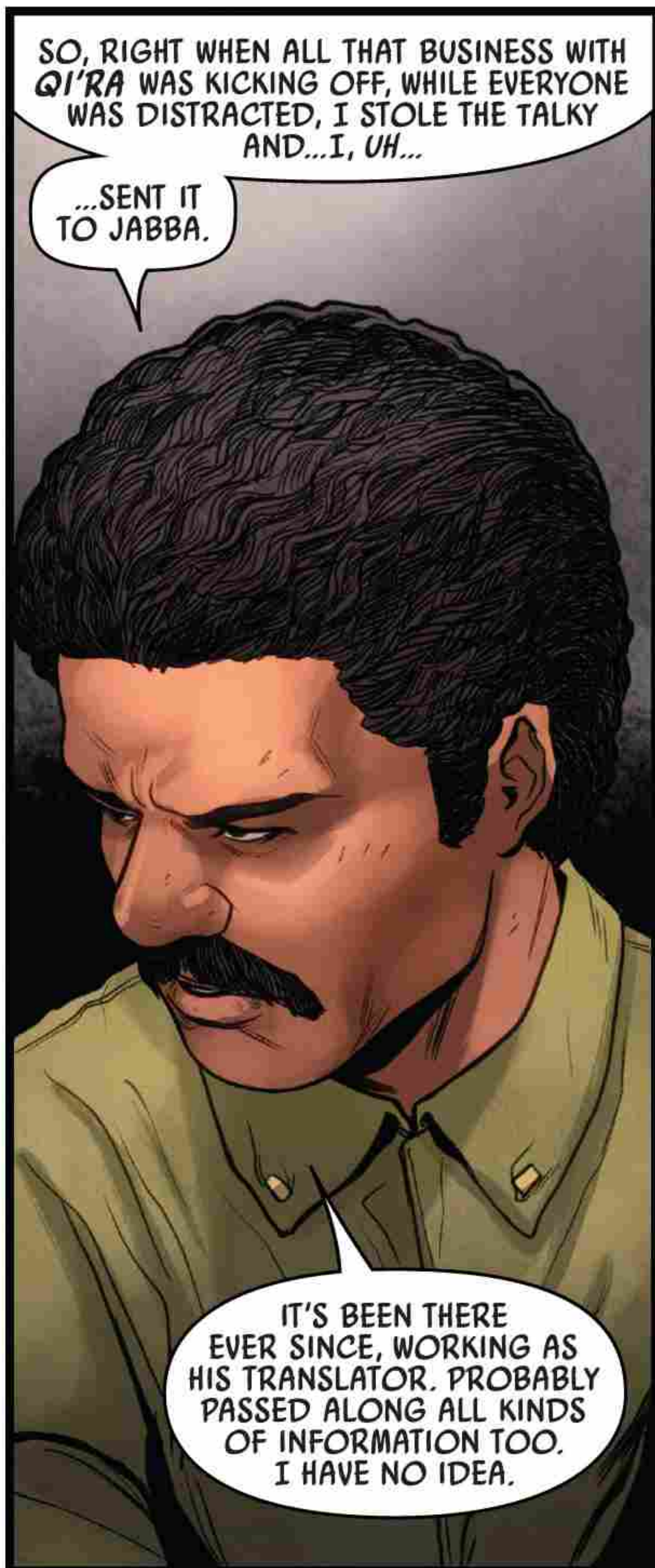
THAT ALL WENT TO HELL. JABBA CAUGHT ME, PUT THE SCREWS TO ME. HE WAS GOING TO TAKE THE **FALCON**, PROBABLY CHEWBACCA TOO.

I MADE A DEAL WITH HIM TO GET AWAY. I TOLD HIM THAT **BOBA FETT** HAD **HAN**, BUT HE WANTED MORE.



HE ASKED ME TO SPY ON THE ALLIANCE. JUST...PASS ALONG TIDBITS FROM TIME TO TIME.

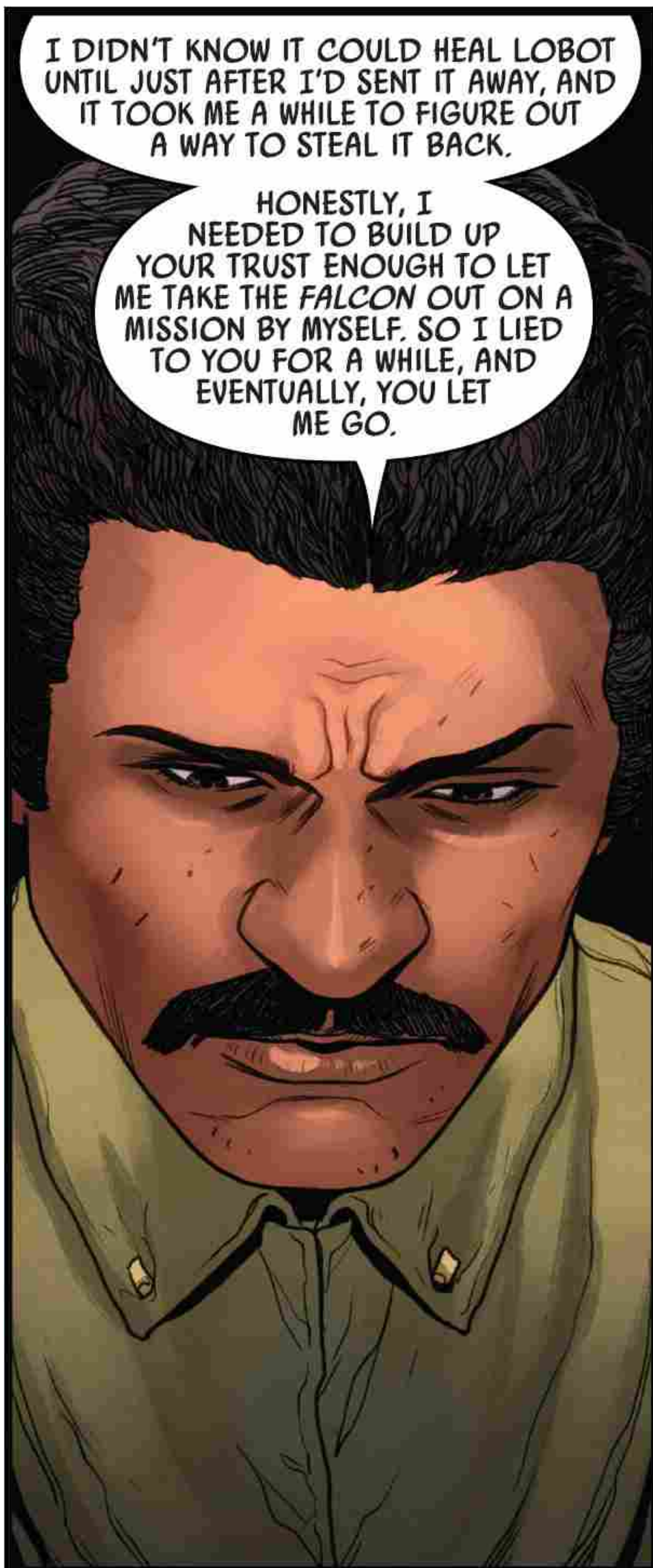
I DIDN'T DO IT--BELIEVE THAT OR NOT--BUT I DIDN'T. THAT GOT ME IN MORE TROUBLE THOUGH--AND JABBA NEEDED SOMETHING BIG OR HE SAID HE'D KILL ME.



SO, RIGHT WHEN ALL THAT BUSINESS WITH **QI'RA** WAS KICKING OFF, WHILE EVERYONE WAS DISTRACTED, I STOLE THE TALKY AND...I, UH...

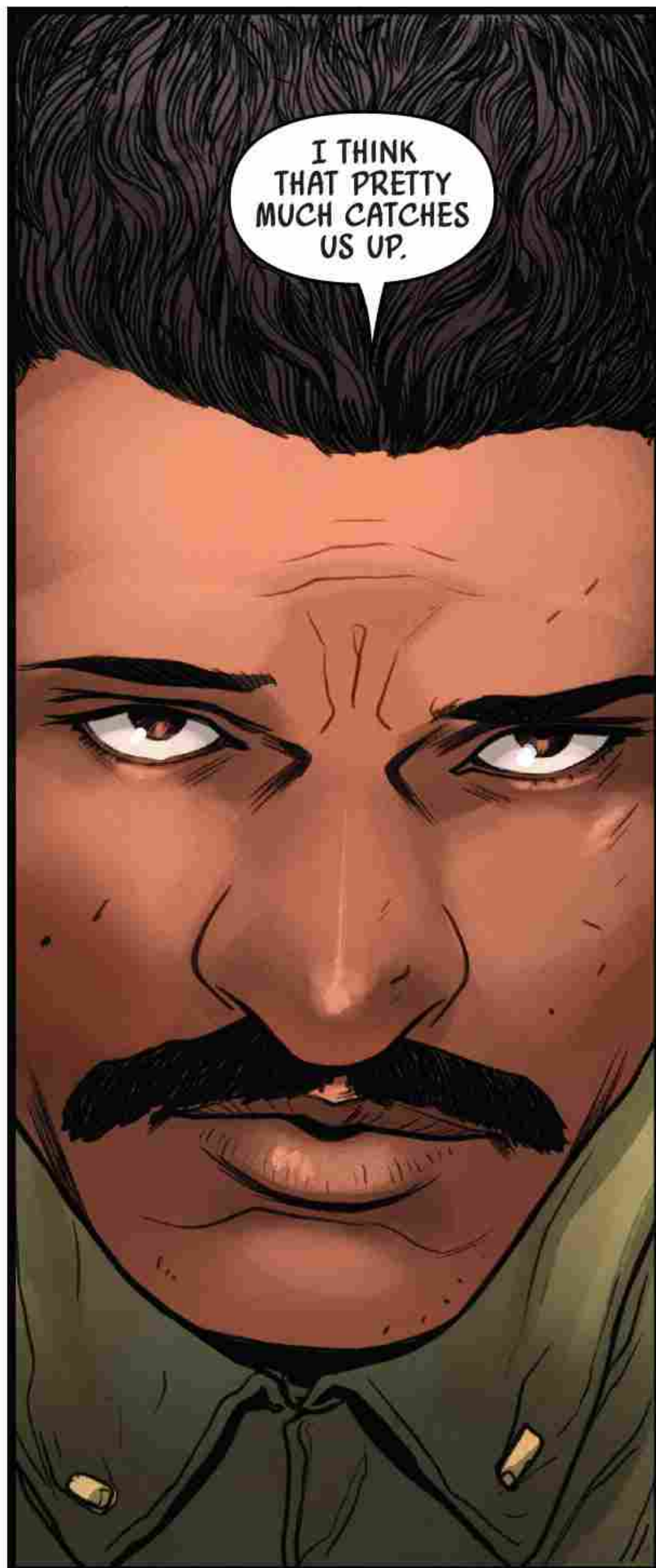
...SENT IT TO JABBA.

IT'S BEEN THERE EVER SINCE, WORKING AS HIS TRANSLATOR. PROBABLY PASSED ALONG ALL KINDS OF INFORMATION TOO. I HAVE NO IDEA.



I DIDN'T KNOW IT COULD HEAL LOBOT UNTIL JUST AFTER I'D SENT IT AWAY, AND IT TOOK ME A WHILE TO FIGURE OUT A WAY TO STEAL IT BACK.

HONESTLY, I NEEDED TO BUILD UP YOUR TRUST ENOUGH TO LET ME TAKE THE **FALCON** OUT ON A MISSION BY MYSELF. SO I LIED TO YOU FOR A WHILE, AND EVENTUALLY, YOU LET ME GO.



I THINK THAT PRETTY MUCH CATCHES US UP.



NOW FIX
HIM.

WITH
PLEASURE.

The Rebel Alliance fleet.



WHY, LANDO?



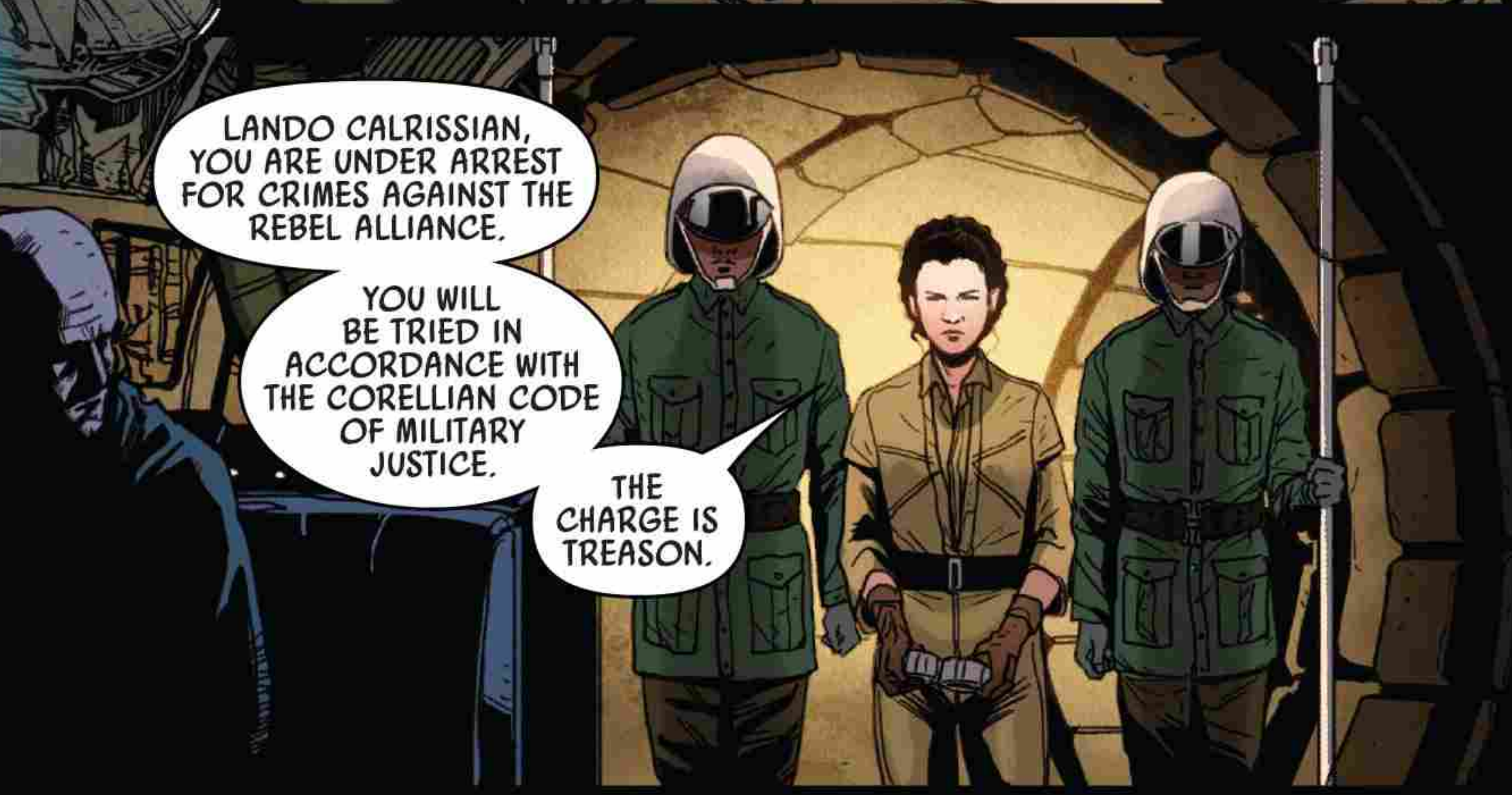
YES, LOBOT. THAT'S WHAT I DID.

YOU BURNED IT ALL DOWN... FOR WHAT? FOR ME?



WHEN IT CAME DOWN TO IT, I HAD TO DECIDE WHO I REALLY WANTED TO BE. THE OLD LANDO, OR THIS NEW ONE I'M JUST GETTING TO KNOW.

TURNS OUT I LIKED THE NEW ONE BETTER.



LANDO CALRISSIAN, YOU ARE UNDER ARREST FOR CRIMES AGAINST THE REBEL ALLIANCE.

YOU WILL BE TRIED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CORELLIAN CODE OF MILITARY JUSTICE.

THE CHARGE IS TREASON.



THE PENALTY IS DEATH.



SOUNDS
ABOUT
RIGHT.

To be continued in
THE TRIAL OF LANDO CALRISSIAN....
But first, THE SITH AND THE SKYWALKER!

It's Coming for the Metal...

AUGUST:

~~DARK DROIDS 1~~
~~STAR WARS 37~~
~~DARTH VADER 37~~
~~DOCTOR APHRA 35~~
~~BOUNTY HUNTERS 37~~

SEPTEMBER:

~~STAR WARS 38~~
~~DARK DROIDS 2~~
~~DARTH VADER 38~~
~~BOUNTY HUNTERS 38~~
~~D-SQUAD 1~~
~~DOCTOR APHRA 36~~

OCTOBER:

~~BOUNTY HUNTERS 39~~
~~DARTH VADER 39~~
~~DARK DROIDS 3~~
~~STAR WARS 39~~
~~D-SQUAD 2~~
~~DOCTOR APHRA 37~~

NOVEMBER:

~~STAR WARS 40~~
~~DARTH VADER 40~~
~~DARK DROIDS 4~~
~~DOCTOR APHRA 38~~
~~BOUNTY HUNTERS 40~~
~~D-SQUAD 3~~

DECEMBER:

~~D-SQUAD 4~~
~~DARK DROIDS 5~~
~~STAR WARS 41~~
~~BOUNTY HUNTERS 41~~
~~DARTH VADER 41~~
~~DOCTOR APHRA 39~~

NEXT

STAR WARS 42

